

For the convenience of Subscribers residing in remote places, the weekly numbers are released in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazine. Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than Three Months, and in advance, are received by M. BAUDRY, 3, Quai Malaquais, Paris, or at the Athenæum Office, London. For France, and other Countries not requiring the postage to be paid in London, 25fr. or 12. 2s. the year. To other Countries, the postage in addition.

MINERALOGY.—Mr. J. TENNANT, F.G.S., will commence the Second Part of his COURSE of LECTURES on MINERALOGY, with a view to facilitate the study of GEOLOGY, and of the application of Mineral Substances in the ARTS. The Lectures will be illustrated by an extensive collection of specimens, and will begin on WEDNESDAY MORNING, January 31st, at Nine o'clock. They will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday. Further particulars may be obtained at the Secretary's Office.

KING'S COLLEGE, London.—SCHOOL.—The FIRST TERM will begin on TUESDAY NEXT, Jan. 29. Pupils will be admitted. Further information may be obtained at the Secretary's Office.

SODDART and CONOLLY FUND.—Any Subscriber not having yet received the first Report of the Committee, with the Alphabetical List of Subscribers and Statement of Account, will receive it, post free, on communicating their address to Captain George, Army and Navy Club. Subscriptions continue to be received, by Messrs. Drayton, Charing-cross; Messrs. Hankey, Chancery-street; and the Committee.

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE TAUGHT BY MONS. MARIOT DE BEAUVOISIN (from Paris), at 33, Lombard-street, City, and at 14, York-street, Covent-Garden. Attendance, for Ladies, from 11 in the morning till 3, for Gentlemen from 4 in the evening till 8 o'clock. Conversation, Elocution and Composition Classes for Proficients.—Elementary Classes for Beginners. Further particulars will be found in M. de B.'s Prospectus, which may be had at either of his class-rooms.

N.B. M. de Beauvoisin's original System, 'French in Four Months,' is published by Souter & Law, 131, Fleet-street, and sold by all booksellers. Price 9d. each lesson. This work is the most useful that has yet appeared; creditable to the skill of the writer, and remarkable for knowledge, acuteness, and judgment. —*The Press.*

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY.—A YOUNG GENTLEMAN, experienced in taking Transit, Circle, and Equatorial Observations, and in the Measurement of Double Stars, having lately been Assistant in the Observatory of the distinguished British Nobleman, would be happy to meet with the same engagement. In addition to other advantages, the Assistant, having spent three years in a manufactory, is well acquainted with the construction and use of astronomical and optical instruments in general. N.B.—Lessons in Astronomy, and Mathematics may be had until a situation in an Observatory offers. Address by letter, J. T. G., 62, Newman-street, Oxford-street, London.

PAINTING IN WATER COLOURS and OIL.—drawing in a pure classical style of art, also landscape in colour and pencil, with flowers and fruit, all done from nature, by an old Student of the Royal Academy. About 200 specimens, some very highly finished. On view from 12 till 4 o'clock, at 8, Greenacre-place, the end of Titchfield-street, Marylebone. —*Advertisement.*

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MR. BEARDS' DAGUERRETYPE, or PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS, in which further improvements have lately been effected, are taken by the Patentee, at 65, King William-street, City; 34, Parliament-street; and at the Royal Polytechnic Institution, 309, Regent-street, by whom also Licences are granted for exercising the invention in Provincial Towns and Districts.

ART-UNION OF LONDON.—4, Trafalgar-square, Charing-cross. Established 1837. President, His Royal Highness the Duke of CAMBRIDGE. Vice-President, The Most Noble the Marquis of NORTHAMPTON, P.R.S.

The Subscribers of the current year, ending 30th March, 1844, will receive for each guinea paid, the chance of obtaining a valuable Work of Art, an impression of a Line Engraving, by Mr. Goodall, from the Picture by Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., THE CASTLE OF ELY, &c. &c. or motion in this series of Twenty-two Designs in Outline, (size, 12 inches by 8), made expressly for the Society by Mr. H. C. Selous, and engraved by Mr. Henry Moore, illustrative of the 'Pilgrim's Progress.' The Outlines are now engraved, and may be seen at the Office; and a Subscription is earnestly solicited, to enable the Committee to make arrangements for their distribution immediately after the close of the year.

A finished Proof of the Engraving due to the Subscribers of the year 1843, 'RAFFAELLE AND THE FORNARINA,' engraved by Mr. L. Stocks, after Sir J. Russell, R.A., may be seen at the Office. —*Advertisement.*

CHESSMEN.—A superb SET of ivory CHESSMEN, red and white, to be SOLD. The pawns are mounted on horses; the other figures correspond. The whole set, by permission of Mr. Hodgson, at his office, Aldine-chambers, Paternoster-row.

TO ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, &c.—The Spanish Consul-General has received instructions to give publicity to the following:—A PREMIUM OF TEN THOUSAND HARD DOLLARS is offered, by the Board for the Encouragement of Public Works, &c., 'JUNTA DE FOMENTO,' of the Island of Cuba, to any person who shall, during the present year of 1844, produce the best Steam Engine, with Machinery or Apparatus, capable of performing the operation of breaking all sorts of masses of Stone, and reducing them to the size of four ounces each, at the rate of 100 cubic Spanish varas per hour, and of being removed occasionally along high roads, as may be required. The premium and the cost of price of Engine and Machinery separate items, not to be paid for until its powers and capabilities shall have been tested and satisfactorily proved by a six months' trial of work. Further particulars may be had at the Consular Office of the above, 37, Old Broad-street, City.

OPENING OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN INSTITUTE.—His Royal Highness the PRINCE ALBERT, Patron of the Institute, having graciously communicated his intention to honour the OPENING SOIRÉE with his presence, the Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., President of DEVON, having most kindly acceded to the wishes of the Institute by consenting to preside on that occasion, the EVENING OF FRIDAY, the 2nd of February, has been fixed on for this purpose.

The Soirée will be held at the Rooms of the Institute, No. 13, George-street, Hanover-square, which will be opened for the reception of company at half-past eight o'clock. The admissions will be confined exclusively to Members, and such Ladies only as may be included in their regular Tickets of Membership, or who may be recommended by the President and Council for that evening; and each Member and Visitor will be required to leave their Cards of Address with the Hall Porter on entering. Members who have not yet received their Cards of Membership are requested to apply for them between the hours of Twelve and Four, at the Committee-room, No. 4, Hanover-square, previous to the 25th inst. after which the presentation of these at the door, no admissions can be granted.

JAMES S. BUCKINGHAM, Resident Director. Jan. 22, 1844.

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CLASS No. 20, for GENTLEMEN. Commenced on FRIDAY, January 19, at a quarter past Six o'clock, and meets on Tuesday and Friday Evenings. Terms.—Same as Class No. 31. N.B. All applications for admission to this Class must be made on or before TUESDAY NEXT, January 30. Tickets and full particulars may be obtained at the Office, 101, St. Martin's Lane.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO CHURTON'S BRITISH AND FOREIGN LIBRARY, 26, HOLLES-STREET. For a Single Copy, 4s. 6d. 10 Guineas per Annum. For a Book Society, from 6 to 20 Guineas per Annum. Any number of Members may join in the same Book Society subscription. No charge is made for the delivery of the books. The standard Collection consists of 25,000 Volumes, and EVERY NEW WORK is added the day it issues from the press.

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COMMERCIAL and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE, ANNUITY, FAMILY ENDOWMENT, and LOAN ASSOCIATION, 112, Cheapside, London.

DIVIDENDS.—Notice is hereby given, that the HALF-YEARLY DIVIDEND due on the 25th of December last, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the capital stock of the Association, is now payable between the hours of 10 and 3. By order of the Board, FRED. LAWRENCE, Resident Secretary.

Law Life Assurance Office, Fleet-street, January 10, 1844.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a GENERAL MEETING of the PROPRIETORS of the LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY will be held, at the Society's Office, Fleet-street, London, on FRIDAY, the 2nd day of February next, at half-past Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon precisely, pursuant to the provisions of the Society's deed of settlement, for the purpose of receiving the Auditors' Annual Report of the accounts of the Society up to the 31st of December last, and for general purposes.

By order of the Directors, GEO. KIRKPATRICK, Actuary.

Business will commence at Twelve o'clock precisely. The Dividend on the Capital Stock of the Society, for the year 1843, has been in the course of payment since the 6th day of April last. In 1 vol. 8vo, with Map, Chart, and Tables, price 15s. 6d. cloth, **IRELAND BEFORE AND AFTER THE UNION.** Being a complete Exposition and Refutation of the Calumnies against England; and a Development—Political, Ecclesiastical, and Statistical—of the Past and Present State of Ireland. By R. MONTGOMERY MARTIN. The Author of 'The History of the British Colonies,' &c. London: Wm. S. Orr & Co. Paternoster-row; and Ridgway & Son, Piccadilly.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1844.

REVIEWS

Report to the Speaker on the Alterations [in Westminster Bridge] proposed by Mr. Barry. By Messrs. Walker & Burgess.

Treatise on the Practice and Architecture of Bridges. By William Hosking, F.S.A., Architect and Engineer.

Letter from Mr. Barry to the Speaker in Answer to a Report of Messrs. Walker.

WHILE the public believed that Mr. Walker, the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, was quietly occupied in underbuilding, piling, renovating, and enlarging Westminster Bridge, enclosing pier after pier, so as to renew its youth and efface all records of the ravages of time and old Thames on its foundations, inclosing these foundations carefully in an envelope of sheet piling of solid oak, closing it in above with extensive courses of masonry, removing coffer-dam after coffer-dam, and completing arch after arch with success, so as now to be half-way, or more, across the river; and this so noiselessly and peacefully, that the wayfarers who daily swarm across it know nothing except that some parts of the parapet are closely boarded, so that they may not linger looking at the works, and thus impede other passengers—while the engineer, with his contractor, Mr. Cubitt, was believed to be thus quietly working his way under ground and under water, the public has been suddenly awakened from its pleasant dreams, and informed that it has all been an awful mistake; “that the system pursued by Messrs. Walker and Burgess for securing the foundation of the piers has failed,” that “the bridge is in such a critical state as to cause an order to be given by the Commissioners to suspend all further works for the present:” and Mr. Barry adds,—“From what I have seen of the recent alarming dislocations of the present structure, it is now, in my opinion, no longer a question as to the propriety of rebuilding the superstructure alone, but the entire bridge*.”

So there go, at one fell swoop, these underground and under-water-working engineers, with their coffer-dams, piers, arches, and thousands and tens of thousands of public money, and the bridge itself to its foundation stone—go! gone—clean swept away. Truly, this is a serious matter—much too serious even to be speculated on, except by thoroughly competent persons, after a most searching survey. But though this is an issue to be determined by others, there existed, before Mr. Barry put forth this last astounding announcement, a very pretty little embroglio of art, science and engineering, about which we may as well offer a few words, for the question is of equal interest, whether the superstructure alone, or the whole bridge, is to be rebuilt.

Some time since, as our readers know, Mr. Barry, the architect of the Houses of Parliament, solicited Prince Albert and the Fine Art Commissioners to aid him in tumbling this bridge about Mr. Walker's ears, while the latter was in the very act of repairing its foundations—certainly a summary proceeding, somewhat unceremonious, and not likely to prove satisfactory to Mr. Walker. No sooner had Mr. Barry made the proposition, than Mr. Hosking, the Professor of Architecture and Engineering at

King's College, steps in to assist him, and give an additional push to the threatened structure. What wonder if Mr. Walker, surprised and indignant, could work no longer without a little speech of his wrath; not passionately, but stoutly and stubbornly, in a substantial, workmanlike, engineering manner. The opinions of the two heads of their several professions became thus directly and publicly in opposition, with reputation to both at stake.

Mr. Barry's proposal regarding Westminster Bridge, that it be pulled down to the water's edge, and a new superstructure substituted for it, was given to our readers some time since. Mr. Barry, in that Report, objects to the ugliness and height of the present bridge—it overlooks his Houses of Parliament, partly hides them—is inconsistent, he says, with their style of architecture, therefore ought to be removed and another built on the same piers, but in a style similar to that of the Houses of Parliament. So far the design of Mr. Barry is good; a bridge might be built in place of the present, to harmonize better with the style of the Houses of Parliament: i. e. if it be desirable that a bridge and a palace should have the same style—simply because they are adjacent. But we grant the artistic question in *limine*, and think Mr. Barry right in his opinion; only Mr. Barry chose to give reasons, an imprudent step, if we believe the counsel of the experienced old judge, whose advice to his younger brethren was, give your decision, but never your reasons—your decisions will probably be, on the whole, right; your reasons may, with equal probability, be wrong. Had Mr. Barry said, simply, the bridge is unsightly beside my Houses of Parliament, therefore let us pull it down, Mr. Barry's authority might have settled the point. But he proceeds to give reasons why a certain kind of Gothic and groined arch, which he proposes, would be better, both as regards the water-way of the bridge, the clear height for navigation, the transmission of the stream, and various other practical and scientific points. This places the question on an altogether different footing, and not by any means a wrong footing, because it is, after all, matter of great doubt, whether, for the better view of Mr. Barry's buildings, the old bridge ought to be demolished, to the great present inconvenience of the public, and to the enormous destruction of property and waste of public money.

The question is, briefly, what advantage—as the arch of a bridge circumscribed like Westminster Bridge—does the Gothic or pointed form of arch possess over the round, segmental, or elliptical form,—or, rather over the present form of the arch of Westminster Bridge? We answer, with Mr. Walker, none in an engineering point of view, which is the view taken in Mr. Barry's first argument. The pointed arch will not enable the road to be lowered more than a circular or segmental one of the same span, or spring; on the contrary, if a pointed arch were planned with its spring at a given height, and if, from a desire to lower the roadway, it were proposed to alter the form of the arch, the plain alternative would be this, to substitute for the arch an elliptical curve, which should coincide with the Gothic arch at the spring, and deviate from it at the centre, by cutting off the point, which it would do to a considerable extent. This process of simply cutting off the point would materially lower the roadway, and, at the same time, improve the equilibrium of the arch, and increase its strength. The pointed arch, in short, for a large span with little rise, is the worst known form; having, in its flat segments, all the weakness of a much larger arch, without any correspondent advantage; while, on the contrary, an

arch forming the arc of a circle will possess every advantage, which Mr. Barry attributes to the Gothic arch, without involving any of the evils inherent in it:—

“Mr. Barry's second argument for substituting the pointed arch is,—the elevation of its springing above the level of high water, by which the water-way of the bridge will be the same at all times of the tide, in place of being contracted by the present spandrels at high water, nearly equal to one-twentieth of its sectional area, occasioning currents, with a fall, and sometimes danger to craft in passing through the bridge under the influence of high winds.” Mr. Barry appears here to have stated ‘sectional area,’ when he must have meant width or cord; for we find, that in the section of his scheme, the contraction of the middle arch by the spandrels is about one-twentieth of the width, at the level of Trinity high water; but as the contraction is only a few feet in depth, before the arch falls into the vertical line of the pier, the diminution of sectional area is not one-twentieth, nor more than one one-hundred-and-twentieth, and this at high water only; and even this small diminution is in effect reduced practically to nothing as respects the current, when it is considered that the greatest velocity does not take place until half ebb, by which time the water has sunk below the level of the spandril. It is, we think, therefore evident, that the proposed alterations will not produce any useful effect upon the currents or the falls. When the bed of the river under the arches is lowered (which also is part of the contract), and the coffer-dams removed, the present current through the bridge will be materially lessened. Some practical good would be effected by the higher point of springing of the pointed arches, in giving more head room for craft near to the piers; and, as the Westminster Bridge arches have less space for navigation than any of the four City bridges, any increase of accommodation is desirable; unfortunately, however, while an addition is thus made for one-fourth of the width of the arch near the springing, a portion is taken away from the height for the remaining three-fourths, nearest the crown, where it is of the greatest importance: this diminution varies from eighteen inches to thirty inches; so that the centre arch will not then have more height for navigation than the two arches adjoining the centre arch now have; and when we inform you, that at high water of good tides, the centre arch is the only one which some of the steamers can conveniently pass under, we think you will allow with us, that the proposed lowering will, in such cases, be rather a practical evil, as it will take from the convenience of what is now the least convenient bridge for navigation, to say nothing of the liability to the ribs being injured by masts and chimneys striking them.”

We omit Mr. Barry's third argument, because it is the artistic one, and we admit Mr. Barry to be the better judge. The compliment, however, with which the engineer repays the architect a former courtesy, is curious and characteristic. Mr. Walker asks—alluding to the river front with which it is proposed the bridge should be made to accord—“May not the New Houses be better displayed thus (by diversity of style in this bridge) than by accordance of style? The beauty of the detail of the New Houses is very great; the length, 800 feet, is also without, at present, any striking feature or variety, also great. The style of the new buildings must stop somewhere—can it do so better than at the bridge?”

Now comes in to the rescue Prof. Hosking, with his Treatise on Bridges, to decide at once the engineering and architectural question. Mr. Hosking has a bridge of his own to propose instead of the present, and, like Mr. Barry's, it is to be Gothic. Thus far he agrees with Mr. Barry; but in other points his evidence on the mechanical question is adverse to the Gothic arch. He states the conditions of such a bridge as Westminster clearly and correctly in the following paragraph:—

“That the level of the road upon a bridge may not be raised above the level of the roads which it connects more than is absolutely necessary, and that the head-

* A paragraph has this week appeared in the *Times*, to the effect that “no further settlement has taken place within the last three months,” and that, “for any thing at present apparent, the bridge is more firm and solid than ever;” and that “the reason so little has been done in the repair of the bridge since Christmas is, that the Commissioners have adopted the recommendation of the engineer to suspend the works during the winter months.” So far well; but an anonymous paragraph in a newspaper is not a satisfactory refutation of so grave a charge.

way under a bridge may be as high and clear as it can be made, consistently with the safety and utility of the road-way over it. It will be very generally necessary that the bridge itself should rise from the abutments to the middle, making the road-way on both sides inclined planes to and from the highest point. When this is the case, the springing of the arch or arches at the abutments should be assumed at the level of ordinary high water, whether of floods or spring tides; and head-way for navigation or for craft navigating the river, being taken under the middle of the bridge at the highest level the water attains, it will be readily determinable whether the inclination the roadway must take over the assumed points is fairly practicable under the circumstances, or according to the situation of the bridge and the facilities required of it."

The passages we have printed in italics form the limits which accurately define the proportions of the bridge. Whatever be the form of arch ultimately adopted (even if a new bridge is to be built), it is plain that the height of the arch is determined by the circumstance of craft having to pass under it at high water, as at present; and it is plain that this height must be given, and may be given by any form that is fixed on for the arch. The next condition, that the piers should rise above high-water mark before the arches spring from them, is also one to which both a circular segment and an ellipse are conformable, quite as much as a Gothic arch. But now comes the question, these conditions being alike in the three, the circular segment, the ellipse, and the Gothic arch—which of them is best in other respects? for example, the highest point being fixed, which of the three forms will admit the greatest range in breadth of head-way for navigation? Certainly the ellipse, then the segment, and last the Gothic. If, next, we inquire which will diffuse the weight most uniformly over the stones of the arch, and require the least depth of arch stones, so as to be at once the strongest, most stable, and durable, and to allow of the road-way being lowered to the greatest extent, the answer is, the segment of a circle, first and best, the ellipse second, the Gothic last. For all the purposes and uses of a bridge, there can be no question, in an engineering point of view, that the Gothic is the worst possible.

What then is the conclusion to which, in *hoc statu*, we are conducted by the arguments adduced on both sides of the question? That a Gothic bridge should not be attempted? By no means. On the contrary, if a Gothic bridge is to be built on the piers of Westminster bridge, or even only on its site, it may be done; not only may it be done, but it may be done easily, satisfactorily, substantially, and durably. Nor do we agree with Mr. Walker that such bridges are without precedent—they are to be met with of considerable span which have stood the test of more than a century. Chester Old Bridge is an example that at this moment occurs to us. The arches may not only be built, but no one who looks at the elegant design of Mr. Hosking can deny that they may be so constructed, as to give an elevation at once imposing and beautiful, as well as substantial. The question is now of the relative engineering merits of the different kinds of arch, and this is the ground Mr. Barry has himself selected. He may be right, and he is high authority on the question as to the artistic effect of the bridge in combination with his Houses of Parliament—here we concede to his better judgment. But in the engineering question we think him quite wrong. Even with Mr. Moseley's opinion to back him (advanced in a subsequent letter) we think him thus far wrong—that, whether we look to the question of head-room, lowering the road-way, or enlarging the water-way, the Gothic arch is the worst. If, therefore, we

are to pull down the bridge, or to rebuild it from necessity, let us proceed on sound reasons, plainly stated. Let us not pull it down by mistake, as it would assuredly be if demolished for Mr. Barry's reasons. Let it be plainly stated that we are to demolish it because he does not like the passengers to look down on the Houses of Parliament from the great elevation of the present bridge; because he wishes that the bridge and the opposite side of the Thames should present a becoming and harmonious elevation to the spectator: in short, let us know that we are to pay for our *spectacle* the price of a new bridge—money which we would much more willingly expend in building a new bridge where it is much wanted in some of the more crowded parts of the city, and so invest our capital productively rather than unproductively. Or, if dedicated to the fine arts, let us see whether so large a sum might not in some other way be made to contribute more effectively to the improvement of the public taste.

Memoir and Correspondence of Mrs. Grant of Laggan. Edited by her Son, J. P. Grant, Esq. 3 vols. Longman.

ALL who concern themselves in the social annals of literature are familiar with the name of Mrs. Grant of Laggan, as one of the established literary notabilities of Edinburgh. An elder generation remembers with respect and pleasure her 'Letters from the Mountains,' her 'Memoirs of an American Lady,' and her work on Highland superstitions: and to this, we presume, the present voluminous collection of letters is principally addressed. How far such an exposition is wise or prudent on the part of survivors, is a question. Many distinguished persons have taken alarm, and for the sake of their friends' ease, rather than their own posthumous reputation, are rendering such a revelation after their decease impossible. This, in itself—were there no intrinsic right and wrong in the question—is an evil calculated to make the thoughtful regard suspiciously any scheme of sudden and indiscriminate publication of such intimate and domestic memorials as those before us.

The good Lady of Laggan, however (or we wrong her memory), was precisely one of those persons to whom the idea of such a disclosure brought small discomfort. Simple-minded, affectionate, and well-judging in the main, there was likewise in her character the least taste (as the Irish say) of that self-conscious pedantry which is opposed to all idea of sensitiveness. This has been apparently entered into by the editor; since he publishes in this collection a complete series of letters, setting forth the writer's successive family bereavements, which might gracefully have been referred to, but ought not to have been formally produced. If our conclusions savour of unkindness to Mrs. Grant's friends and survivors, it is they, be it remembered, who are answerable. For the rest, there is less gossip in these letters—a smaller amount of anecdote of the Scotts, and Mackenzies, and Ferriers, and Christopher Norths, and Jeffreys, who have made Edinburgh famous—than we had anticipated. More than once when a description seems coming, the writer branches off into empty generalities, and natural but common-place expressions of feeling. Hence the collection is one from which it is a rather thankless task to make extracts. Nor are we much helped by the introductory biographical notice. We learn from it that Mrs. Grant was a Miss Macvicar, born at Glasgow, in 1755; that she accompanied her mother to America, where her father was serving in the army; that at Albany she became acquainted with Madame Schuyler, the "American Lady" of

the "Memoirs"; that she returned to Scotland in 1768, and was married to Mr. Grant, clergyman in the Highland parish of Laggan, in 1779; that in 1801 she was left a widow with a numerous family, and in straitened circumstances, which she was counselled to improve by authorship; that owing to the attention attracted by her works, she was led to take charge of the education of a few young ladies; that she was bereaved of her own daughters by consumption; and that the latter half of her life was passed in the literary circles of Edinburgh, where she died, in 1838, full of years and honours.

These facts dispatched, we may now look into the letters, which are written, mostly, in an old-world style; but this is anything rather than disagreeable to those who are somewhat weary of highly-spiced phrases and sharp-pointed paragraphs.

The London circles to which the Lady of Laggan was introduced, on commencing her anxious literary career, must have afforded her many subjects; but she is only eloquent on Kew Gardens, telling with honest artlessness how she fell asleep at the Opera, "the music of which was Greek to her"; and warning, like a true Scotchwoman, on certain critical disparagements of Ossian, which appeared in the Reviews. On her return to Stirling, where, as a widow, she resided, she indulges occasionally in guesses at the policy of the *Edinburgh Review*, some of which it may not be unreasonable to extract, seeing that recent republications have attracted attention to the history of that periodical:—

"You, my dear sir, are not singular in the surprise you express at the silence of the *Edinburgh Review*, with regard to the letters. You will be more surprised when I tell you I am in some measure personally acquainted with Mr. Jeffrey, the conductor of that publication, and that what further he knows of me is through the most favourable medium—some friends of mine, who are also his intimates, and who are partial to my writings in consequence of long endeared attachment to the Author. My daughter, too, was the favoured friend of his late beloved and very deserving wife; so that I am convinced it is no personal ill will that makes this Arch-Critic so silent. But there are, among the *Edinburgh Literati*, two parties,—the *Philosophers*, who are also wits, and the *Enthusiasts*, who are also loyalists; not in the lukewarm form of the late converts, but with such a sentiment as that to which your virtuous Falkland and our great Montrose fell victims. To this latter party, my friends more particularly belong. The *Philosophers*, whom we consider as disguised republicans, value themselves on their prejudice against prejudices, and on general incredulity. We, again, believe all that our fathers believed; nay more; we believe in the existence of the fair-haired Fingal and the sweet voice of Cona. Now this enrages the Sophists beyond measure; their literary pride is all in arms at the very idea that gentle manners or generous sentiments should precede the existence of the sciences, and cannot conceive how a man should have either valour or compassion without learning it at school. On the same principle they treat female genius and female productions with unqualified scorn, never mentioning anything of the kind but with a sneer. Of late they have clubbed their whole stock of talent to prove that no such person as Fingal ever existed; that our Celtic ancestors were little better than so many northern orang-outangs; that we should never think of or mention our ancestors, unless to triumph in our superiority over them; that the Highlands should be instantly turned into a great sheep-walk, and that the sooner its inhabitants leave it, the better for themselves and the community. Judge what favour I, an illiterate female, loyalist and Highlander, am to find at such a tribunal! I admire Jeffrey's abilities, and with his criticism on *Montmel's* Memoirs, and the other on *Anacreon Moore's* poems, I am unspeakably delighted. But then he has so committed himself by his severity towards Mrs. Hunter, Miss Baillie, and my friend James Graham, the amiable writer of 'The Sabbath,' and been so reproached by their friends, that he has lately de-

clared he will never more criticise his particular acquaintance. I, for my part, am yet to learn whether he spares the rod out of kindness or contempt; but I shall soon know. Walter Scott, the charming minstrel of the Border, is lately enlisted in the critical corps:—such a loyalist as he, appears among them like Abdiel among the fallen angels."

We may add, that to the last, Mrs. Grant's admiration for Scott's genius seems to have been as enthusiastic as her adherence to his Tory principles. In this she was staunch: and curious is it now to read over her letters of motherly anxiety and warning written at "dear Theodore" (Hook). A second English visit gives her an occasion for dilating on the marriage of Cowper's "Johnny of Norfolk" as follows:—

"Poor Miss Catherine Fanshawe is very unwell: I have known very few persons possessed of talents so great and so various; when here, she received a letter from Hayley, who now lives in a retirement which he calls his hermitage; it was to announce the marriage of Norfolk Johnny with a lady, young, lovely, and truly amiable; she was an orphan of independent fortune, well educated in the country, where she lived with her relations. She was elegant, pious, musical, and studied Cowper with ever new delight. Charmed with the playful innocence, cordial friendship, and disinterested kindness that appear in Cowper's sketches of Johnny's character, she sighed and wished 'that Heaven had made her such a man.' Her worthy and liberal-minded relations, notwithstanding Johnny's confined circumstances and unprepossessing appearance,—for he is little, and diffident in manner,—her people, in short, told his people that Johnny might try: so he did, and succeeded; for when you know him, he is charming, innocent, sweet-tempered, full of fancy and humour, and a delightful letter-writer. They went to Bath, about three weeks since, to be married, and proceeded straight from the altar to Hayley's Cottage, where Johnny's charmer sung and played to the poet every one of Cowper's lyrics, and some he never meant as such; in short, brother William was in as great raptures with Johnny's bride as he himself could be. Now, of all the great and wealthy who read and praised Cowper, not one ever thought of giving their interest to promote this faithful friend of his infirmities, who did for him what no other being would or could; but this sweet creature loved virtue for itself, and rewarded it with herself."

Here is a summons to a great lady; and, subsequently, a *levée* in the same august presence:—

"I was sitting quietly at the fireside one night lately, when I was summoned, with my eldest daughter, to attend the Duchess of Gordon: we spent the evening with her at her inn, and very amusing and original she certainly is: extraordinary she is determined to be, wherever she is, and whatever she does. She speaks of you in very high terms, which, you know, always happens in the case of those whom the Duchess 'delighteth to honour': as the highest testimonial of your merit that she can give, she says you were one of the greatest favourites Mr. Pitt had, and then she pronounced an eloquent eulogium on that truly great man. Her Grace's present ruling passion is literature,—to be the arbitress of literary taste, and the patroness of genius,—a distinction for which her want of early culture, and the flutter of a life devoted to very different pursuits, has rather disqualified her; yet she has strong flashes of intellect, which are, however, immediately lost in the formless confusion of a mind ever hurried on by contending passions and contradictory objects, of which one can never be attained without the relinquishment of others. She reminds me, at present, of what has been said of the ladies of the old *régime* in France, who, when they could no longer lend up the dance of gaiety and fashion, set up for *beaux esprits*, and decided on the merits of authors."

"I called on the Duchess of Gordon yesterday, she and I having a joint interest in an orphan family in the Highlands, which creates a kind of business between us; she had a prodigious *levée*, and insisted on my sitting to see them out, that we might afterwards have our private discussion. Among other characters at her *levée*, I saw Lord Lauderdale, who made me start to see him almost a lean slipped

pantaloon, who, the last time I saw him, was a fair-haired youth at Glasgow College; he was really like a 'memento mori' to me: had I much to leave, I would have gone home and made my will directly. More gratified I was to see Sir Brooke Boothby, though he, too, looked so feeble and so dismal, that one would have thought him just come from writing those sorrows sacred to Penelope, which you have certainly seen. Being engaged to dinner, I could stay no longer; the Duchess said that on Sunday she never saw company, nor played cards, nor went out: in England, indeed, she did so, because every one else did the same, but she would not introduce those manners into this country. I stared at these gradations of piety growing warmer as it came northward, but was wise enough to stare silently. She said she had a great many things to tell me, and as I was to set out this morning, I must come that evening, when she would be alone. At nine I went, and found Walter Scott, whom I had never before met in society, though we had exchanged distant civilities.—Lady Keith—Johnson's Queeney—and an English lady, witty and fashionable-looking, who came and went with Mr. Scott. No people could be more easy and pleasant, without the visible ambition of shining, yet animated, and seeming to feel at home with each other. I think Mr. Scott's appearance very unpromising and common-place indeed; yet though no gleam of genius animates his countenance, much of it appears in his conversation, which is rich, various, easy, and animated, without the least of the petulance with which the faculty, as they call themselves, are not unjustly reproached. Lady Keith and Mr. Scott said all that was civil, and offered to call on me; but I return to Stirling to-day, in spite of all these seductions, and I have risen by daylight to finish this letter, which, after all, I fear you can scarcely read. I have taken my sober glass of Edinburgh: this much exhilarates, more would intoxicate."

After the flourish in the last paragraph, it is diverting to see our generally calm and good-tempered lady of the Mountains almost losing temper when she attempts to criticise the character and style of the florid, fantastic, yet gifted Anna Seward. But, in truth, her acumen was not keen. When she somewhat pharisaically congratulates Scotland as not containing the "Dubsters, Brangtons, and Mittens" of Miss Burney's novels—or, in plain English, no mean and vulgar characters—did she forget that the Trongate of her native city had its Cockneys, which a Galt and a Moir were one day to describe broad as life: nay, even that a mountain Highland parish might be fitted with a Duncan Mac Dow for clergyman—if, at least, we are to put any trust in the Scottish delineations of the kindly Miss Ferrier? We but advert to these points to test the general value of the opinions contained in this correspondence. The portraits, as we have said, are few and faintly touched. One series of letters we must, however, mention with pleasure—those, we mean, to the Scottish modeller, Mr. Henning, who, on trying his fortune in London, was supported by Mrs. Grant's counsel and pecuniary assistance. We like her far better in this capacity of almoner, than when "sick of Madame de Staël," or when "pencil[ing] the marriage of the arch critic of the Blue-and-yellow Review, or when protesting against the domestic happiness of "that great fool, poor Mrs. E," or when explaining how it answers in Auld Reekie to give two parties two days running—the first for those who talk brilliantly and despise grosser fare, and the second at which "the funeral-baked meats" of the Wits' banquet "furnish forth the marriage tables" for good stupid people, who care little for talk so they are sufficiently well stuffed. Here are one or two illustrations of shrewdness better applied:—

"I am quite of your opinion as to the too uniform splendour of Felicia Hemans. She keeps us hovering constantly on the wing, like birds of Paradise, for want of a perch to repose upon. This cannot be said of the honest Lake poets; you may there find obscure

and languid places, where you may not only perch, but nod, till some of those beautiful passages which redeem the poppy-covered waste occur to wake you. Did ever I tell you of one of said poets we have in town here, indeed one of our intimates—the most provoking creature imaginable? He is young, handsome, wealthy, witty; has great learning, exuberant spirits, a wife and children that he doats on (circumstances one would think consolidating), and no vice that I know, but, on the contrary, virtuous principles and feelings. Yet his wonderful eccentricity would put anybody but his wife wild. She, I am convinced, was actually made on purpose for her husband, and has that kind of indescribable controlling influence over him that Catherine is said to have had over that wonderful savage the Czar Peter. Pray look at the last Edinburgh Review, and read the favourable article on John Wilson's City of the Plague. He is the person in question; and had any one less in favour with them built such a city in the region of fancy and peopled it in the same manner, they would have *plagued* him most effectually."

"What do you think of Lord Byron's latter poems? The Third Canto of Childe Harold, you find, has met its full share of admiration here. I, too, admire it exceedingly, though I think our indulgent critics pass lightly over much of false sublime. Sure you must have read the criticisms in the Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews on his poems,—I mean the last productions of that wayward and wonderful mind. I need not tell you that the first is Jeffrey's, nor that he has outdone himself in that exquisite essay, which I am never tired of admiring. You would also trace Walter Scott in the inferior, though pleasing and kindhearted criticism in the Quarterly. After all, though Scott expends a great deal of good sense in reasoning down, and a great deal of good nature in soothing down the angry moods of the illustrious misanthrope, he could scarcely expect that he will succeed in persuading the man to quit what he actually puts on as an ornament. He is striving to deprive Parolles of his drum, or a fine lady of her rouge, and seems to forget that his lordship, like Ingo, is nothing if not critical—or rather, he is nothing if not querulous. When a child runs away merely to be pursued, and cries merely to be pitied, it is in vain that you bribe it to come back and be quiet. Scott would fain infuse as much of his own honey into Lord B.'s vinegar as would at least make oxymel of it; but it will not do. His 'Love's Labour lost' reminds one of the good-natured David Hume provoking Rousseau by trying to manufacture a little tranquillity for him."

With these passages we will close these volumes. They possess some value as contributions to the history of Scottish literature, but less than might have been expected as illustrating the literary society of Edinburgh during one of its most brilliant periods.

The Mabinogion. By Lady Charlotte Guest. Part V. Containing 'The Dream of Rhonabwy,' and the Tale of 'Pwyll Prince of Dyved.' Longman & Co.

THE tales in the present number of this curious work, although scarcely so amusing, and certainly not claiming so high an antiquity, as those preceding, are to be welcomed as additions to our stock of genuine Celtic remains. It is interesting, too, to trace in their supernatural machinery the close connexion which subsists between the marvels of the East and of the West; and to find not only some of the wonders, but actually some of the incidents, which amused our childhood in the Arabian Nights, told, with earnest faith and wild poetry, by the Welsh bards of the twelfth century.

To the first of these narratives, 'The Dream of Rhonabwy,' an earlier date cannot, we think, be assigned, for it is a dream, or rather a trance, during which the hero beheld King Arthur, whom he terms "Emperor," and represents as receiving homage from "the isles of Greece," and the tribute of "four-and-twenty asses, with their burthens of gold and silver." Now, this

elevation of the valiant chief of the Silures into an Emperor, receiving homage from all parts of the world, was unknown to the earlier Welsh bards, and is to be attributed to that combination of Breton fiction with the marvels of Jeffry of Monmouth, which formed the groundwork of the chivalrous romances of that period. It is curious to observe with what intense longing both the Bretons and Welsh dwelt on the fable of Arthur's residence in the isle of Avalon, and his anticipated re-appearance, about the close of the twelfth century; and we think that 'The Dream of Rhonabwy' was composed to encourage this general feeling.

The hero and his companions enter a ruinous place, which seems to serve the double purpose of a hall and a cow-house, and, receiving but cold entertainment from the inhabitants, they lie down to sleep, Rhonabwy choosing for his couch "a yellow calf-skin." The reader will recollect the species of divination practised in the Highlands, by wrapping a man up in a red bull's hide, and leaving him to his dreams. A similar power seems to have belonged to this yellow calf-skin, for our hero was immediately transported into the presence of Arthur, and beholds many marvels. The reader of middle-age history will discover a strong resemblance between Rhonabwy's introduction to Arthur, and that described by Matthew Paris, in his fanciful story of the 'Butterfly Bishop.'

"And they came to the edge of the ford, and there they beheld Arthur sitting on a flat island below the ford, having Bedwini the Bishop on one side of him, and Gwartheygud the son of Kaw on the other. And a tall auburn-haired youth stood before him, with his sheathed sword in his hand, and clad in a coat and a cap of jet black satin. And his face was white as ivory, and his eyebrows black as jet, and such part of his wrist as could be seen between his glove and his sleeve, was whiter than the lily, and thicker than a warrior's ancle. Then came Iddawc and they that were with him, and stood before Arthur, and saluted him. 'Heaven grant thee good,' said Arthur. 'And where, Iddawc, didst thou find these little men?' 'I found them, lord, up yonder on the road.' Then the Emperor smiled. 'Lord,' said Iddawc, 'wherefore dost thou laugh?' 'Iddawc,' replied Arthur, 'I laugh not; but it pitieth me that men of such stature as these should have this island in their keeping, after the men that guarded it of yore.' Then said Iddawc, 'Rhonabwy, dost thou see the ring with a stone set in it, that is upon the Emperor's hand?' 'I see it,' he answered. 'It is one of the properties of that stone, to enable thee to remember that thou seest here to-night, and hadst thou not seen the stone, thou wouldest never have been able to remember aught thereof.'"

It was well that Rhonabwy had the aid of that ring, for the descriptions of the different troops and horses, and the garments of their leaders, might indeed tax the strongest memory; each dress being most minutely described, as well as the colours of the horses, which seem as various as those in the Bayeux tapestry; some being red and white, and one in particular being "red on his right shoulder, and from the top of his legs a bright yellow."

A golden chair is now brought for the king, and a carpet of diapered satin. "Gwen was the name of it, and this was one of its properties, that whoever was on it, none could see him, and he could see every one." Arthur and Owain sit down to play chess; and a battle meanwhile ensues between Arthur's troops and Owain's ravens—a miraculous kind of birds, with whom we should like to be better acquainted, since the raven has mostly been considered to belong exclusively to Scandinavian mythology. We are reminded of the same mythology towards the conclusion of this dream, for although Arthur's great men are represented as slain, and Owain's ravens all dead or wounded, they appear "alive and well again" at the end. Then

follows a general muster of Arthur's vassals and tributaries; and with the tumult that ensues, Rhonabwy awakes, and discovers that he has slept three days and three nights. The writer concludes by telling us, that no one "knows this dream without a book, neither bard nor gifted seer;" another proof that it is the work of a later period, although the reason he assigns is, that no one could without it remember the various colours of the horses, and "of the arms, and of the panoply, and of the precious scarfs, and of the virtue-bearing stones,"—and in this we fully agree with him.

The second story, 'Pwyll Prince of Dyved,' has more the character of one of the earlier chivalrous romances. The hero sets forth hunting—an infallible method of seeking adventures, and meets a personage clothed in grey, and riding on a grey steed, who proves to be Arawn, King of Annwynn, or the lower regions—in short, a king of shadows, like the "King Pluton" in 'Syr Orfeo.' Like that renowned knight, Pwyll is conducted to his dominions, and finds wealth and all good things there in abundance; and he is welcomed as king, for Arawn "put his form and semblance on him," taking at the same time that of Pwyll. The reader will observe how common a similar incident is in Oriental fable. While Pwyll bears this likeness, he encounters a neighbouring king, and after giving him one deadly wound, refuses to give him another, since the second blow would restore him to life—another Oriental fable. Pwyll now returns in his own form to his dominions, and at the suggestion of one of his court, sits down upon an enchanted mound "to see a wonder."

Presently "a wonder" appears in the pleasant form of "a lady on a pure white horse of large size, with a garment of shining gold around her." Pwyll directs one, and then another of his men to follow her; but although the horse "seemed to move at a slow and even pace," no one could overtake her. This is one of the illusions frequently alluded to in the Breton lays. At length, as his best horseman cannot overtake the lady, Pwyll sets forth himself.

"And he let his horse go bounding playfully, and thought that at the second step or the third he should come up with her. But he came no nearer to her than at first. Then he urged his horse to his utmost speed, yet he found that it availed nothing to follow her. Then said Pwyll, 'O maiden, for the sake of him whom thou best lovest, stay for me.' 'I will stay gladly,' said she, 'and it were better for thy horse hadst thou asked it long since.' So the maiden stopped, and she threw back that part of her head dress which covered her face. And she fixed her eyes upon him, and began to talk with him. 'Lady,' asked he, 'whence comest thou, and whereunto dost thou journey?' 'I journey on mine own errand,' said she, 'and right glad am I to see thee.' 'My greeting be unto thee,' said he. Then he thought that the beauty of all the maidens, and all the ladies that he had ever seen, was as nothing compared to her beauty. 'Lady,' he said, 'wilt thou tell me aught concerning thy purpose?' 'I will tell thee,' said she. 'My chief quest was to seek thee.' 'Behold,' said Pwyll, 'this is to me the most pleasing quest on which thou couldst have come; and wilt thou tell me who thou art?' 'I will tell thee, Lord,' said she, 'I am Rhiannon, the daughter of Heveydd Hên, and they sought to give me to a husband against my will. But no husband would I have, and that because of my love for thee, neither will I yet have one unless thou reject me. And hither have I come to hear thy answer.' 'By Heaven,' said Pwyll, 'behold this is my answer. If I might choose among all the ladies and damsels in the world, thee would I choose.' 'Verily,' said she, 'if thou art thus minded, make a pledge to meet me ere I am given to another.' 'The sooner I may do it, the more pleasing will it be unto me,' said Pwyll, 'and wheresoever thou wilt, there will I meet with thee.' 'I will that

thou meet me this day twelvemonth at the palace of Heveydd."

The simplicity and straightforwardness of this courtship seem to refer this tale to a higher antiquity than the former. At the end of the twelve months, accordingly, Pwyll presents himself; and during the feast, "a tall auburn-haired youth, of royal bearing," enters and craves a boon. Pwyll unguardedly replies, "What boon soever thou mayest ask of me, thou shalt have."

"Ah," said Rhiannon, 'wherefore didst thou give that answer?' 'Has he not given it before the presence of these nobles?' asked the youth. 'My soul,' said Pwyll, 'what is the boon thou askest?' 'The lady whom best I love is to be thy bride this night; I come to ask her of thee, with the feast and the banquet that are in this place.' And Pwyll was silent because of the answer which he had given. 'Be silent as long as thou wilt,' said Rhiannon. 'Never did man make worse use of his wits than thou hast done.' 'Lady,' said he, 'I knew not who he was.' 'Behold, this is the man to whom they would have given me against my will,' said she, 'And he is Gwawl the son of Clud.'

Pwyll is deeply grieved, but Rhiannon urges him to fulfil his promise—"because of the word thou hast spoken, bestow me upon him, lest shame befall thee"—but assures Pwyll that she will so manage matters that the youth shall not marry her. Pwyll complies, and Rhiannon postpones the marriage for a twelvemonth, and gives Pwyll a small bag, directing him to bring it with him, and have his hundred knights in attendance near at hand:—

"So Gwawl went forth to his possessions, and Pwyll went also back to Dyved. And they both spent that year until it was the time for the feast at the palace of Heveydd Hên. Then Gwawl the son of Clud set out to the feast that was prepared for him, and he came to the palace, and was received there with rejoicing. Pwyll, also, the chief of Annwn, came to the orchard with his hundred knights, as Rhiannon had commanded him, having the bag with him. And Pwyll was clad in coarse and ragged garments, and wore large clumsy old shoes upon his feet. And when he knew that the carousal after the meat had begun, he went towards the hall, and when he came into the hall, he saluted Gwawl the son of Clud, and his company, both men and women. 'Heaven prosper thee,' said Gwawl, 'and the greeting of Heaven be unto thee.' 'Lord,' said he, 'May Heaven reward thee, I have an errand unto thee.' 'Welcome be thine errand, and if thou ask of me that which is just, thou shalt have it gladly.' 'It is fitting,' answered he, 'I crave but from want, and the boon that I ask is to have this small bag that thou seest filled with meat.' 'A request within reason is this,' said he, and gladly shalt thou have it. Bring him food.' A great number of attendants arose and began to fill the bag, but for all that they put into it, it was no fuller than at first. 'My soul,' said Gwawl, 'wilt thy bag be ever full?' 'It will not, I declare to Heaven,' said he, 'for all that may be put into it, unless one possessed of lands, and domains, and treasure, shall arise and tread down with both his feet the food that is within the bag, and shall say, "Enough has been put herein."' Then said Rhiannon unto Gwawl the son of Clud, 'Rise up quickly.' 'I will willingly arise,' said he. So he rose up, and put his two feet into the bag. And Pwyll turned up the sides of the bag, so that Gwawl was over his head in it. And he shut it up quickly and slipped a knot upon the thongs, and blew his horn. And thereupon behold his household came down upon the palace. And they seized all the host that had come with Gwawl, and cast them into his own prison. And Pwyll threw off his rags, and his old shoes, and his tattered array; and as they came in, every one of Pwyll's knights struck a blow upon the bag, and asked, 'What is here?' 'A Badger,' said they. And in this manner they played, each of them striking the bag, either with his foot or with a staff. And thus played they with the bag. Every one as he came in asked, 'What game are you playing at thus?' 'The game of Badger in the Bag,' said they, and then was the game of Badger in the Bag first played."

Here we are again in the land of Eastern marvels. The bag that could not be filled, like the carpet that rendered him who stood on it invisible, both belong to the ancient Oriental tales. Yet, the incident has no appearance of being an adaptation of an Eastern story, for "the badger in the bag" belongs to European and Middle Age manners. Pwyll now returns to his dominions with Rhiannon, who, three years after, gives birth to a son, who is carried away while both mother and nurses sleep; and Rhiannon having been charged with his murder, is condemned, as a penance, to "sit every day near unto a horse-block that was without the gate, and tell her story to all who had not heard it." The reader will remember a similar incident in the Arabian Nights. The *dénouement*, however, leads us back to the earliest age of fiction: it was on May Day eve that the child was stolen, and, from the conclusion of the tale, it would appear to be the general belief that the young of animals born on that eve were liable to be spirited away. The lord of Gwent, watching lest a colt just foaled of his beautiful mare, should be carried off, hears "a great tumult, and, after the tumult, a claw came through the window, and seized the colt by the mane." The watcher strikes off the claw, and "tumult and wailing" follow; he then opens the door, and finds "a beautiful boy in swaddling clothes, wrapped around in a mantle of satin." The reader need not be told that this is the missing prince, and that the story concludes with his restoration.

From a note we find that there is another tale relating to the heroine Rhiannon, describing some marvellous *birds* possessed by her, and whose songs were so sweet that "warriors remained spell-bound for eighty years together listening to them." The graceful Middle Age legend of the snow-white birds of Paradise, will occur to the reader, and we hope Lady Charlotte Guest will, ere long, give us the Mabinogi in which their story is told.

The strong marks of similarity of supernatural agency, which may be traced amid all the varieties of nations and states of society, seem to point to one common origin. This is a curious question, but not without its importance in tracing the earlier history of the human race. It is on this account that we always look with interest upon genuine popular legends, although they may aspire to no greater elevation than that of a mere nursery tale; and among the most valuable of these publications we place 'The Mabinogion.'

New Sketches of Every-day Life: a Diary. Together with Strife and Peace. By Frederika Bremer. Translated by Mary Howitt. 2 vols. Longman.

We have reviewed both these delightful works—a translation of 'Strife and Peace' in October (No. 834), and the original of 'The Diary' on the 9th of December (No. 841)—and should therefore have been content on this occasion simply to announce the publication before us, had not Mrs. Howitt written a preface, in which she discusses, in a very questionable temper, a subject of some literary interest, connected with the law of copyright.

Mrs. Howitt was the first person to make the English public acquainted with the writings of the Swedish novelist. "I regard it," she says, "as one of the happiest and most honourable events of my life—of which nothing can deprive me—that I have introduced her beautiful and ennobling writings, not only to these islands, but to the whole vast English family." Thanks and praise, say we. All so far is well—and satisfactory; but more remains behind.

Unfortunately, we live in an age of compe-

tion, and it shows signs of being likely to continue, notwithstanding all that theorists may say and prophesy against it. It seems in no hurry to pass by; and, after all, something might be propounded in its favour. Like many other things, when pushed to an inconvenient extreme, that is, when it becomes an evil, it has a natural tendency to cure itself. Society must be entirely reconstituted before competition can be put down, and we shall, therefore, await that issue before we seriously complain of it.

Doubtless there are two sorts of competition—fair and unfair; but a little reflection will show us that it is the business of the Law to distinguish between these, and not the competitors themselves. Before the present extension of the term of copyright, the so-called piratical publisher stepped in at the earliest possible moment, and seized on the expired privilege. Parties were injured by this, and murmured against the supposed wrong. The publisher aforesaid had a ready and effectual defence; if a wrong were done, the law did it, not he. The legislature was therefore properly appealed to, and the term of copyright was prolonged. The future publisher will, however, just as certainly, pounce on every work that will pay for its re-issue, on the expiration of the extended term. Should it then be felt that a wrong is done, that will be a reason for the re-consideration of the subject; it may even become a question whether perpetual copyright would not be desirable. But the matter still remains as before—the republisher is not to blame, but the law. Of course this leaves untouched the individual duty of conducting all business on the most generous principles. This, however, is an affair of moral taste, not one of legal honesty. We have no right, therefore (at least, we think that we have not), to characterize the tradesman who only takes advantage of what the law allows, by epithets which imply, not only a want of generosity in his commercial relations, but of legal honesty. Now, we hold that to call such a man a "buccaneer," a "literary body-snatcher," is to imply, not only that he is trading upon selfish principles, but that he is likewise offending against some statute which condemns the transactions in which he engages as illegal.

We much regret to find, that Mrs. Howitt has been seduced into language of this sort in respect to certain reprints from American translations of Miss Bremer's novels, which have appeared in this country. Mrs. Howitt having, as she states, "created a public" for Miss Bremer, there have not been wanting those who were in haste to take advantage of it, and, by means of such American reprints, have issued other versions at a much cheaper rate, to the manifest injury of the first translator. Mrs. Howitt denounces this conduct in terms that fairly startle us; calls it "swindling," if we mistake her not. Now it may be wrong, but still it is far from being a legally dishonest proceeding: whether it deserves and demands remedy is another inquiry: and here we think that our authoress has mistaken her way altogether. However, let Mrs. Howitt state her own case:—

"This question is not at all one of a cheap edition; this is a matter of course: but it is a question whether it be fair and honourable for a man who ventures nothing himself, who learns and acquires nothing himself, to lurk as a Literary Buccaneer in the steps of authors of established reputation, till they have opened to his greedy eyes a safe means of profiting by their taste, and tact, and experience. It is one thing to spend years in acquiring foreign languages, to spend other years in visiting foreign countries, and poring through the vast mass of foreign productions, in order to discover and pick out what is really worthy of being introduced to your countrymen,—one thing, when you have done all this, at a most

serious cost of time, labour, and money; have then taken all other risks, and in fact created a public;—and another thing, for a man who has done nothing of all this, to avail himself of the fruits of your labours, and of the public favour you have raised."

The argument here advanced by Mrs. Howitt amounts to this—that the original translator of any foreign work should enjoy a monopoly in it, and that the law ought to interfere to enforce the claim. Why, of all the forms of literature, translation is, we think, the one that should be most open to competition. What otherwise would there be to prevent the worst scribe on the press from seizing hold of some continental author who has just become popular, and by mere dint of mechanical industry and reckless haste, anticipating a better and more careful translator, and thus effectually ruining the reputation of the original writer with the public, since it would be then impossible to redress the wrong by the publication of a better version? The notion is clearly absurd: but Mrs. Howitt, to our astonishment, goes even further than this. She claims an exclusive property, not only in the specific work that she has translated, but in all the other works of the same author! Nobody has a right to translate anything that Miss Bremer has written, or may write, but Mrs. Howitt! Was such a demand ever made before? Because it is Mrs. Howitt's intention to publish at some future day, translations of all Miss Bremer's works, she contends, that "Smith, or Clarke, or Tomkins," has no business in the mean time to publish translations of the works of that writer; and she is expressly wroth with Mr. Smith, because, as she states, he pretends, that in thus forestalling her by a popular and cheap edition, he is animated by a "zeal for the public good." "His object," she with amiable indignation exclaims, "was a public good turned carefully into his private pocket." Now is not this a little unfair? No doubt Mrs. Howitt's motives are as pure as human motives can be, and by her translating she has the public good at heart; but has she not also looked to her own private advantage? has she not turned the public good into her private pocket? Is it not the very ground of her complaint, that by Mr. Smith's conduct she is deprived of certain expected profit? Most assuredly, and no shame to Mrs. Howitt. Few authors write from a mere love of writing, patriotism, or even of fame. They do undoubtedly expect the pudding as well as the praise: so does Mrs. Howitt; for that she has the praise, she herself admits, and what she contends for is the pudding and nothing else; nay, she will not be contented even with a share of the pudding, she demands the whole—nothing will satisfy her less than the pudding itself, in its unimpaired integrity.

But Mrs. Howitt has a fling at the critics as well as at the publishers, and at foreign publishers as well as at our own:—

"Since writing thus far," she says, "I have seen that the introducer of these American translations has announced one of Miss Bremer's new works, 'A Diary.' This certainly cannot be from the Swedish, which is scarcely yet out, and of which I know that sheets have been transmitted by the authoress only to myself. It must, therefore, be from the German translation—which is by far the most defective German translation that has yet appeared of any of Miss Bremer's works, having omissions of several pages at once. * * At these men I am not surprised; they are only labouring in their ordinary vocation. The real cause of surprise is, that any journal can be found, holding a respectable rank, which will sanction and encourage them. Their miserable activity is the natural result of such patronage."

That the Swedish authoress should desire to be ably represented in foreign countries, is natural enough: nevertheless it appears to us,

notwithstanding all that Mrs. Howitt says to the contrary, that she is not quite so exclusive in her notions on this point—not so absolutely in favour of England and Mary Howitt—as might be inferred. If we are in error, how, we ask, did the German translator get possession of his copy? For be it observed, the German edition was translated, printed, published, and received in London early in November, and reviewed in this journal on the 9th of December, before even Mrs. Howitt's translation was announced as in preparation. How can Mrs. Howitt's statement be reconciled with the following advertisement, which we translate from the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, of the 5th of December:—

A Diary, in Two Parts; or New Sketches from Every-day Life, by Frederika Bremer. Original German Edition.—The announcement of the appearance of this work will be enough for the many admirers of this famed authoress: but the publisher finds it necessary to remark, that this original edition, prepared by the authoress herself for Germany, appears earlier than the Swedish, which will not be published till the end of the year, and possesses many advantages which will make it preferable to any later translations.

It must not be supposed, for a moment, that we question the good faith in which Mrs. Howitt made her statement; but how are we to reconcile it with this announcement put forth by the German publisher, Kittler, of Hamburg, coupled with the fact, that his edition appeared two months before Mrs. Howitt's translation, and, as both parties admit, two months before the Swedish original? Does Mrs. Howitt mean to assert that, a copy having come thus legitimately into our hands, we were not at liberty, when we published our review, with translations, to have published a translation of the entire work? and might not any "Smith, Clarke, or Tomkins" have done so without subjecting himself to moral censure, or being stigmatized as a "buccaneer," a "literary body-snatcher," or a "swindler"? If, after all, an edition prepared by, or under the direction of, the authoress be "by far the most defective translation" which has yet appeared, it says much against Miss Bremer's judgment, and we recommend Mrs. Howitt not to publish this statement with Miss Bremer's praise of her translations in the same preface. As to the omissions, they prove nothing. They are readily explained on the supposition that the first rough manuscript was, doubtless, for the sake of the profit connected with the transaction, committed to a German translator before the final revision of the work, and that many alterations and additions have been since made by the author herself. This was the case with Coleridge's translation of Schiller's 'Wallenstein,' and many of the differences between the translation of that fine drama and the original arose in this way. Nor is there anything wrong in this. Every author is justified in taking the ball at the rebound, and accepting the reward of his public while they are in the humour. Even so the "Smiths, Clarks, and Tomkinses" must live, as well as Mrs. Howitt, though the lady may be unable to see any sufficient necessity for their doing so.

However, there is a grievance; but Mrs. Howitt has not hit the nail on the head. That American translations should be reprinted in England, without the consent of the translator, is the real wrong done; and it is a wrong either to the English public or the American publisher. If the American copy be bad, as Mrs. Howitt asserts, the English public clearly suffers from the practice of importation: if, on the other hand, the American copy be good, then the American publisher is defrauded of the extended sale. The wrong, however, can only be appropriately remedied by a wise and proper international copyright law. This is the question at issue—this, and none other. With an international copyright law, Mr. Smith could not

issue a translation at eighteen-pence; whereas, now he gets the translation free of expense, and is able to sell his book at the cost of mere paper and print, and a small trade profit. Publishers and authors, in both countries, suffer from the want of such a law, and Mrs. Howitt is now suffering from the same cause. Let her, then, exert her energies in this direction, and she will aid in effecting a great public good, without falling into an absurdity, whether of argument or fact.

St. Patrick's Purgatory; an Essay on the Legends of Purgatory, Hell, and Paradise, current during the Middle Ages. By T. Wright, Esq. J. R. Smith.

FEW antiquarian subjects open more extraordinary instances of the aberrations of the human intellect than the legends respecting purgatory, hell, and paradise, which were current in the Middle Ages, and the traces of which may be found in the existing superstitions of every country in Christendom. Unfortunately, there are persons who hunt through the follies of past ages merely to collect materials for libel in the present generation; who hunt out trials for witchcraft, to assail Presbyterianism, collect the scandals of the Tudors and the Stuarts, to insult prelacy, and ransack the whole cycle of mediæval absurdity, to calumniate popery. It is to be regretted that Mr. Wright has not forgotten the part of a sectarian controversialist in the more honourable character of an antiquarian: he has gone out of his way to make an attack on the Irish priests equally illiberal and unjust, for, as a body, the Irish priesthood has protested as strongly against "patterns" and pilgrimages, as the Anglican clergy against the superstitions which the Archbishop of Dublin exposed in the agricultural districts of England. It is not our purpose to take any notice of such profitless discussion; we gladly turn from the controversial to the literary portion of Mr. Wright's curious volume, and shall endeavour to introduce some order and arrangement into our investigations, which Mr. Wright has too much neglected.

It is obvious that the idea of a purgatory, or of an intermediate state between death and the final destination of the soul, is a very different thing from assigning a local habitation and definite place to the purgatorial prison; it will, therefore, be necessary to examine each separately, and our first head of inquiry will be into the origin of the notion of purgatory, and its first introduction into the Western Churches.

That the Hebrews had some vague notion of an intermediate state between the departure of the soul from the body, and the fixing of its eternal destiny, may be inferred from several passages in the Old Testament, but particularly from Saul's requesting the witch of Endor to evoke the spirit of Samuel; for whatever theory we may adopt respecting the apparition itself, there can be no doubt of Saul's believing that the witch could procure him an interview with the spirit of the deceased prophet. The ancient Persians appear to have been the first who imagined that, in this intermediate state of existence, the soul was subject to a system of purification, by which the corruptions it had received on earth were removed, and the spirit prepared for admission to the presence of the Infinite Holy. But though this idea is first prominently set forth in the Zend-avesta, it is far from being certain that it was a doctrine peculiar to the followers of Zoroaster: we find the dogma familiar to the Greek philosopher; it is vividly set forth by Virgil in a well-known passage of the Sixth Æneid, and it was generally held by the more enlightened of the Druids.

During the Babylonish captivity, the Jews seem to have learned the doctrine from the Persians, and hence arose the "prayers for the dead," recorded in the History of the Maccabees; but, from the words of this record, it is evident either that such prayers were a novelty, or that they were used very rarely. From this evidence it appears that a vague notion of purgatory, or of a purifying state by which the soul was cleansed from earthly stains, previous to its being fixed in its final destination, prevailed, both in the Eastern and Western world, long before the promulgation of Christianity. The Christian converts brought it with them into the Church, where it was neither formally accepted nor formally rejected, because no circumstances arose which brought the subject under special discussion.

The earliest form in which this belief meets us amongst Christians, is the interpretation given to that clause of the Creed, "He descended into hell:" it was early and generally held that Christ entered the world of spirits to convey the benefits of his redemption to the souls of the patriarchs; and the passage in St. Peter's Epistle, "He preached to the spirits in prison," was quoted to support this interpretation. In the reign of Edward VI. this explanation was incorporated in the Articles of the English Church; it was, however, omitted when the Articles were revised in the reign of Elizabeth, but without any condemnation of the doctrine. The transition from a belief in an intermediate state to the complete doctrine of purgatory, was easy, especially as the latter was the elder tenet; and this very facility is the reason why ecclesiastical historians have not been able to assign the precise date of the change.

The legends which assigned localities to purgatory, hell, and heaven, were purely of Jewish origin. It was asserted by the Rabbins that the Holy Scriptures contained the entire cycle of the sciences, and this doctrine was adopted by the fathers of the Eastern Churches, in order to divert the young from the speculations of the Greek philosophers. A system of Scriptural cosmography, astronomy, and geography, was constructed by Ephrem Syrus, which was universally received by the Eastern Churches, and which, through the influence of Jerome, became similarly established in the Western World. According to this theory, the earth was an immense table-land, surrounded by an ocean, which separated it from paradise; the skies were a solid sphere, or rather a succession of concentric transparent spheres, above which was the residence of the angels and blessed spirits, and beneath the earth were the caverned prisons of hell, the abode of the Devil and the wicked. This theory was taken from the Talmud, and was supported by the most strange perversions of Scripture. For instance, it is said, in the description of the Flood, "the windows of heaven were opened;" this passage was quoted to prove the solidity of the celestial spheres, and it was said that the sons of Noah erected the Tower of Babel, in order to clamber up to these spheres if they should be again endangered by a flood. And the following tale, more singular than any Mr. Wright has narrated, is told by the Rabbins, to illustrate the nature of the sky:

A young student was placed under the care of a Rabbi, who dwelt in a very lofty tower, the top of which nearly touched the celestial sphere. Though often warned not to ascend to the summit, the young man went up one day with his bread-basket in his hand, and was filled with admiration at seeing the revolution of the sphere close above his head. One of the windows of Heaven happened to be open; he thrust his hand in, to feel what kind of a place was beyond, but the moving sphere gave him a

smart rap on the knuckles, and forced him to drop his bread-basket. He came down and related his misfortune to his master; the Rabbi advised him to watch on the top of the tower next day, when the window would again pass over his head. The young man did so, and, thrusting in his hand, recovered his bread-basket.

Origen wrote against the follies that arose from the literal interpretation of the physical descriptions in Scripture; his allegorical explanations of heaven and hell were assailed by St. Jerome, and this great leader of the Western Churches set the example of dwelling on the material torments of hell with a minuteness and precision which even Ægidius de Columna in his 'Treatise on the Geography of the Infernal Regions,' has scarcely equalled. A physical hell and a physical purgatory became so strongly established as articles of faith, that it would have been deemed impiety to doubt of their having a real and local existence. St. Jerome expressly stigmatized as heretics those who asserted that the torments menaced in Scripture were spiritual sufferings and the pangs of conscience.

To this belief in a material hell and physical tortures, must be ascribed the origin of nearly all the legends which Mr. Wright has so diligently collected. Every volcano was at once viewed as an aperture from the place of suffering: even in the last century, Mr. Wesley recorded an account of the soul of a sinner, from London, being taken by a devil down the crater of Vesuvius, in the presence of the captain of an English vessel. Every fathomless abyss and unexplored cavern was supposed to be an entrance into the infernal regions of purgatory or of hell; and St. Patrick's Purgatory, in the north of Ireland, was the most celebrated, because it was the least known, and therefore afforded large scope to the imagination. St. Patrick's Purgatory has localized a general superstition; but Mr. Wright is much mistaken if he believes that the main body of the superstition—the belief in a physical and local heaven and hell—is peculiar to Catholic countries. St. Jerome's literal system has taken such strong hold of Western Christendom that it has interwoven itself in the language, and is actually taught in the great majority of our parochial schools. There is scarcely one amongst us who cannot recollect that the Scriptural cosmogony of Ephrem Syrus has been presented to him in a thousand forms during his childhood. The source of the evil is obviously the literal interpretation of detached portions of Holy Writ by the ignorant, and it would be no difficult matter to trace many other superstitions—as, for instance, the witch-mania of our ancestors—to the same cause. We view Mr. Wright's work as an example of the evils which arise from attempting to obtain from revelation the knowledge which it was not its object to convey; and we think the lesson particularly valuable at a time when Scriptural Education—the worth of which, when rightly understood, no one can deny—instead of being regarded as a system of education in accordance with Scripture, is represented as a system derived exclusively from the Bible.

A Memoir of the Life and Writings of the late William Taylor of Norwich. By J. W. Roberts, Esq.

[Second Notice.]

DURING William Taylor's connexion with periodical literature, he brought before the world several theories respecting Biblical and Ecclesiastical history, which seem to have suggested the subsequent speculations of Strauss and De Potter. Wild as were some of these conjectures—such as that there were two prophets of the

name of Daniel—that the apocryphal book of Wisdom, attributed to Jesus the son of Sirach, was really written by Jesus Christ—that the actions of different persons of the name of Jesus have been attributed to the founder of Christianity by the evangelists—he supported them with such a mass of multifarious learning, that men's belief might have been shaken if the quality of the evidence bore any proportion to its quantity. Rabbinical trifling, and the conjectures of heresiarchs, are however of little value against the concurrent voice of ecclesiastical antiquity; and the question that ought to have been raised was, not the amount of testimony, but the competency and the credibility of the witnesses. These discussions formed too important a part of Taylor's life to be omitted in any notice of his career, but the theories themselves are too purely conjectural to require a lengthened examination. One specimen of his Biblical criticism given by his biographer, may be quoted to show the licence of conjecture in which he indulged. It forms part of an attempt to reconcile the discrepancies between the Jewish records and the statements of Josephus and Herodotus, respecting some of the Babylonian monarchs:—

"This," he contended, "would be effected by admitting that Nebuchadnezzar was a designation of the kings of Babylon, worn by Cyrus, and communicated to Cambyzes on his association to the empire; so that the Nabuchodonosor of Josephus and his Cyrus are one; and the Nebuchadnezzar of Jeremiah is one with the Cambyzes of Herodotus. The designation, name or title, Nebuchadnezzar, may be derived from the Persian *Nayb Khezra*, the Nabob Chosroes, or from the Medic *Nebu cadne tsar*, Celo dignus Princeps."

There is no such Persian word as *Khezra*, and no such Medic title as *tsar*. The Babylonian monarch took his name from the idol Nebo, the name given to the planet Mercury by the Chaldeans, which occurs in the name of several Chaldean persons not mentioned in the Bible, as Nabonassar, Nabopolassar, Nabonebus, &c. On the other hand the name of Cyrus (*Khoresch*) is evidently derived from *Khor* or *Khorshid* "the sun," which was the national object of the Persian idolatry. This is but one out of many examples of the errors into which men fall when they attempt to rectify history by the vague and uncertain aid of philology.

However dear were Taylor's learned disquisitions to himself, the world will feel a more general and lively interest in the literary discussions between him and the late Laureate, particularly as they are singularly illustrative of the characters of both men, and of the literary history of their times. Southey's estimate of himself as a poet and historian is not far from the truth; he has only forgotten to say a word about impartiality:—

"*Me justice*, I am a good poet, but a better historian; because though I read other poets and am humbled, I read other historians with a very different feeling. They who have talents want industry or virtue; they who have industry want talents. One writes like a French sensualist, another like a Scotch scoundrel, calculating how to make the most per sheet with the least expense of labour; one like a slave, another like a fool. Now I know myself to be free from these staminal defects, and feel that where the subject deserves it I write with a poet's feeling, without the slightest affectation of style or ornament, going always straight-forward to the meaning by the shortest road. My golden rule is to relate *everything* as briefly, as perspicuously, as rememberably as possible. I begin however, to feel my brain budding for poetry, having lain fallow since November, and if I could afford to do it, should willingly finish 'Kehama'; but being, like Shakespeare's apothecary, lean, and obliged to do what I do not like, my ways and means lead me another way, and I am prosing, not altogether against my will, and yet not with my will."

To a very partial and indeed exaggerated estimate of 'Madoc,' Taylor adds the following deductions from his eulogy:—

"The manners are hardly *mixed* enough: almost everybody is a real hero, with very fine feelings, notions and sentiments; and this, whether he is a white or red man, an educated bard or a runaway savage. There are some painters (Barry is one), who having accustomed themselves, while students at Rome, to copy the antique statues frequently, are continually introducing into modern English figures the features and attitudes of the Apollo or the Laocoon, &c. Is there not in your ethic drawing a mannerism of this sort?—a perpetual tendency to copy a favourite ideal perfection, of which the absence of selfishness and warm sensibility constitute the contour and colouring?"

Southey's reply confesses this want of individuality in the characters, which indeed was the besetting sin of all his epics, and thus accounts for it:—

"There is that moral mannerism which you have detected: Thalaba is a male Joan of Arc; and Mr. Barbauld thought Joan of Arc was modelled upon the Socinian Christ. He was mistaken. Early admiration, almost adoration of Leonidas, early principles of stoicism derived from the habitual study of Epictetus, and the French Revolution at its height when I was just eighteen,—by these my mind was moulded."

The readers of 'Thalaba' and 'Kehama' are often tempted to suspect that these poems were written for the sake of displaying the learning contained in the notes; nothing but a desire to parade recondite stores, and astonish the world by an exhibition of rare learning, could have suggested such a subject for poetry as that mentioned in the following extract:—

"Did I ever send you my dreams about the Deluge? for I dreamt much about it when on my voyage home from Lisbon. The subject has been long my favourite, because I believe it quite enough to touch it reverently. Enoch and the Talmuds would furnish glorious notes, and help a grand machinery; my philosophy should be Burnett's, with the help of Whiston's comet. Where is your paper on Jude? Whether this Deluge scheme ever ripen or not, I design to get as much rabbinical learning as can be got without Hebrew,—a language of which I have totally forgotten the very little I ever knew. I have a notion that the oriental tinge of our early romances came to us from the Jews, not the Arabians. This hint was thrown out in the review of Ledwick last year, and it pleased me to see that Ellis has had the same thought. Concerning the intercourse between Europe and the East kept up by European Jews and Moors, I have some facts to advance in my history."

Southey's estimate of Jeffrey, *apropos* of the review of 'Madoc,' is amusing:—

"Your review is not yet arrived: that in the Edinburgh you will have seen. I have been at Edinburgh and there seen Jeffrey. When he was invited to meet me, he very properly sent me the sheets, that I might see him or not, according to my own feelings: this was what he could not well avoid, but it was not the less gentlemanlike. I met him in good humour, being by God's blessing of a happy temper: having seen him, it were impossible to be angry with anything so diminutive. We talked about the question of taste on which we are at issue. He is a mere child upon that subject: I never met with a man whom it was so easy to check-mate."

We add, from the same letter, a companion portrait of Sir Walter Scott:—

"I passed three days with Walter Scott, an amusing and highly estimable man. You see the whole extent of his powers in the 'Minstrel's Lay,' of which your opinion seems to accord with mine,—a very amusing poem; it excites a novel-like interest, but you discover nothing on after perusal. Scott bears a great part in the Edinburgh Review, but does not review well. He is editing Dryden,—very carelessly; the printer has only one of the late common editions to work from, which has never been collated, and is left to make conjectural emendations. This I learned from Ballantyne himself in his printing-office."

Taylor sent his review of 'Madoc' to the author before publication, and the alterations and additions suggested by Southey gave a curious insight into the mysteries of criticism as then practised:—

"It is very well perhaps to say so; but if you really think that the tone of 'Madoc' has been pitched in consequence of the criticisms on 'Thalaba,' or that those criticisms have in any degree affected my opinions or practice, you are mistaken. The difference of style between the two poems is precisely what, to my feelings, the difference of character required. The one I regarded as a work of imagination, the other as of a higher order, in which imagination was to be subordinate to thought and feeling; the one was meant to embody the most poetical parts of Islam, the other designed as a dramatic representation of human character. By the blessing of God, you will see my Hippogriff touch at Hindostan, fly back to Scandinavia, and then carry me among the fire-worshippers of Istakhar: you will see him take a peep at the Jews, a flight to Japan, and an excursion among the saints and martyrs of Catholicism. Only let me live long enough and earn leisure enough, and I will do for each of these mythologies what I have done for the Mohammedan. But still such things are more easily produced than 'Madoc': a common magician can make snow-people, but flesh and blood must be the work of a Demiurgos. Wordsworth agrees with you in recommending lyrical measure for the odes; on the other hand, Wynn deprecates it. I do not allow so much to his opinion as to yours; but my own is doubtful at present, and laziness may squat herself down in his scale. You might notice the attack upon the woman as ill managed and worse written than any other part of the poem; you might blame the want of all similes; you might raise a smile at the ugliness of the names and yet defend their euphony."

Jeffrey's rather ill-natured review of Taylor's translation of 'Nathan the Wise' provokes the following comment from Southey:—

"I cannot express to you how strongly I am displeased with Jeffrey's conduct about 'Nathan.' It was at his option to review it civilly or not, as the laws of courtesy and due decorum are not compulsory; but it was not at his option to publish the name of the translator, after the sort of language he had thought proper to use; this was a breach of confidence. I am the more angry because it is a rascally hypocritical article; when Scotch metaphysicians raise a cry for faggots, they richly deserve the fire themselves. I knew the man wrote like a coxcomb; still there was a sort of gentlemanly decorum, from which I did not think he conceived himself exempted, and this he has broken through."

The pleasure which many readers have derived from Southey's 'Life of Kirke White' will not be abated by the following brief notice of the biographer's secret feelings:—

"I have been arranging for the press the remains of Henry White, a truly admirable young man of first-rate powers as a poet, who killed himself by incessant application, having brought on such a state of nerves by this and by Evangelicalism, that, if he had not died, he would have been probably deranged. He was at one time articled to Enfield of Nottingham, whom I suppose you know. You will be affected by his letters, and will greatly admire some of his latter poems. I tell his story plainly, and then arrange extracts from his letters in such order as to make him his own biographer. Upon his religion I can do no more than simply enter a protest against the supposition that I assent to it because I do not controvert it; for the book may probably get into an evangelical circulation, and, should that be the case, the profits will be useful to his family, for whom he has taught me to take a very great interest."

The first letter in which we find traces of a political difference between Southey and Taylor refers to the dissolution of the Grenville ministry. It is not our purpose to examine the inconsistencies of the Laureate's creed: they are obvious enough in his own statement—but the latter is a striking instance of rhetoric running away with logic, and of that substitution

of sentiment for argument which so sadly disfigures the 'Book of the Church.'

"I abhor the cry of No Popery with you; but I dissent from relaxing the laws against it with Erskine and with Ellenborough . . . If I had resolution enough to set about it, I feel inklings to address an ode to the people of Liverpool, in what may be called the style demagogic. Of Harry we may soon look for news; I miss him much at this season, when he has been wont for the last three years to come with the warm weather, bear a hand at the oar in our evening parties, and give me lessons in swimming. I am angry with you for your No Popery in the 'Monthly,' and I justify the penal laws of Elizabeth and James against its priests, acknowledging at the same time the high merit of those who suffered. There was nothing else to be done: the papists burnt every heretic; we said, be papists if you like, but you shall have no priests; it was self-defence. They began burning,—which you have kept out of sight,—and they continued it till within about thirty years, and they would begin again if they dared. I am glad to find Coleridge and Rickman agree with me in my intolerance of popery. The measure of Lord Grenville was a foolish one, which would not have satisfied the Catholics, and would have introduced a popish chaplain into every regiment and every ship in the service. I would rather have had the ministry turned out, than that they should have succeeded. But that is not the question now at issue between the king and the constitution, in which of course I go with the constitution; but if ever such a measure is likely to be carried, then I shall cry No Popery as loud as I can."

Taylor, in the article to which Southey referred, had attributed what he deemed the defects of the English Reformation to the influence of Bucer, and he thus spiritedly defends his "No-Bucerism":—

"Do you really think that popery with her faggot is worse than protestantism with her halter? Oh, get rid of such hereditary bigotries! The catholics acted on the defensive, which is some apology for severity; they selected their victims, generally speaking; the protestants, if less cruel in the form of execution, were less discriminate in the application of it; they made the merciless havoc of barbarians. The Reformation did not change doctrine for the better. A vernacular liturgy (to which the catholics were already tending) and a married clergy were its only benefits. All the time it was in active principle in Europe, Europe was convulsed and re-barbarized by the protestant revolution. The last century was the happy era of Europe; and then, commerce was the pivot of politics and infidelity of literature. Except in Scotland, Holland, and Switzerland, the Reformation diminished civil liberty in all the protestant countries. England, Denmark, Sweden, &c., strengthened the hands of their sovereigns to support the new faith. Except in Poland, the Reformation diminished civil liberty in all the catholic countries; the catholics strengthened the hands of their sovereigns to extirpate the new heresy. With popery Europe was becoming what Italy was under the Medici: refinement and opinion were radiating from the centre of illumination. With protestantism came the ascendancy of that twilight fanaticism and barbaric discipline which taught a practical tyranny even to the free constitutions of Scotland and Geneva. The dim opinions of the edges of the world were blown about and overshadowed the realms of day."

Southey's first views of the Spanish revolution are as much at variance with his subsequent politics, as those he took of the French revolution were with his Bourbonism and Absolutism:—

"You will receive the 'Cid' in the course of a month. How nobly have his countrymen justified the opinion of them which I have so often expressed, and so generally to the astonishment of those who heard me! Spain will now be free. Bonaparte has but one favour more to confer upon them,—if he makes away with the royal family, his crimes and their deliverance will then be complete. It may perhaps be possible to prune down the rotten tree of their monarchy and make it bear good fruit; but I had rather, now that the dynasty is *felo de se*, see them bury the crown and sceptre where four roads

meet, and form themselves into a federal republic, to which Portugal might accede, without any sacrifice of national pride, on equal terms."

There is less of the early history of the *Quarterly Review* than might have been expected in this correspondence. It is amusing to find Southey declaring that he would break off the connexion if the *Quarterly* proclaimed itself anti-jacobin. On the other hand, Taylor's estimate of the *Edinburgh* must have displeased Southey, whose dislike of "the blue and yellow" had gone on with increasing intensity, until it almost assumed the character of a master passion:—

"The *Quarterly Review* is not good for much; it will enhance the reputation of the *Edinburgh*, by exhibiting the relative inferiority of those London writers, who think themselves able to rival the pupils of the Scotch universities. These Oxford and Cambridge men may be scholars, and like most scholars, bigots,—bigots to church and king; but there is not a man amongst them who displays the lofty spirit and intellect of a philosopher. The *Quarterly Review* will exactly ruin the British Critic."

We find the *Monthly Review* holding its ground and influence against the *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly*, chiefly through the skill which the younger Griffiths displayed in its management. A slight rebuke to William Taylor, in reference to the review of Southey's 'Cid,' will help to show that an editor has superintending duties to discharge, even after he has collected around him a corps of able contributors:—

"In your last note you mentioned that you wished to hear from Southey on the subject; but it is most advisable that Southey, with whom I did not know that you were acquainted, should be wholly ignorant of his critic. He attempted, when the work first appeared, to introduce to me an account of it through the medium of a mutual friend; but I follow my constant rule, in resisting all such interferences, as inconsistent with the independence of critics, and therefore injurious to the integrity of criticism."

After Southey was appointed Laureate, his correspondence with Taylor lost much of its original earnestness and activity, but its original friendliness was unimpaired, and its literary interest but little diminished. It is singular that at the time when Southey, as a politician, was the fiercest advocate for royalism and war, he should have projected an epic poem to immortalize a regicide and a quaker:—

"In reviewing Holmes's *American Annals*, I pointed out Philip's war as the proper subject for an Anglo-American Iliad. I have now fallen in love with it myself, and am brooding over it with the full intention of falling to work as soon as Pelayo is completed. The main interest will fix upon Goffe the regicide, for whom I invent a Quaker-son—a new character you will allow for heroic poetry. This Oliver Goffe however is to be the hero; and unless my second-sight deceives me far more than it is apt to do in these things, I expect to produce something very striking out of these materials. Concerning the metre I am undetermined, and indeed rather perplexed; for in those parts which require an undertone rime is as desirable as it is objectionable when the subject rises into a higher key. Have you seen Capt. Pasley's essay on our military policy? In the main it is a book after my own heart. I am perfectly satisfied that Europe has no hope or chance of liberty, unless we win it with the sword, and I am certain that if the trial be fairly made we must succeed. Lord Holland, if he comes into power, will do more for the Spaniards than the present ministry, unless he be as much crippled by his colleagues as Canning was. In Spain we have a fair field, and there we may raise armies to any extent."

The progress of the political alienation between the two friends is distinctly marked in the account which the Laureate gives of his labours in the *Edinburgh Annual Register*, and the *Quarterly*; the passage is both characteristic and curious:—

"If you have seen my *Register* for 1809, you will have seen that the Burdettites have cured me of all

wish for Parliamentary Reform, at least for any reform of their making, or after their fashion. I am thinking of an essay in the Quarterly, upon the means of bettering the condition of society, which will be a set-off of the Reformers versus the Reformists. In the last number I had an article upon the new system of education, from which all the stings were drawn before it went to the press. I am enlarging it for separate publication, with an epistle dedicatory to the Editor of the Edinburgh Review: it will convict that Review of gross and wilful falsehood. Brougham, it seems, is the man whom the Lord hath thus delivered into my hands, and the devil shall not deliver him out of them. It will be a heavier blow to the Review than that which they have received from Coplestone; inasmuch as this goes directly to the moral, or rather immoral, principle upon which it is conducted—the principle of lying point-blank whenever it serves their purpose. I have drawn up an abstract of the New System as clearly and compendiously as possible, showing also what elementary works are wanting to adapt the practice to classical schools—the principle applying equally to all schools. This I have sent to Cadiz, to my good correspondent there, who applied to me upon the subject, the Cortes being about to take measures for providing national instruction for the future."

Taylor's criticism of 'Roderic the Last of the Goths' is equally just, discriminating, and amusing:—

"There is a good deal of prosing in the poem; it does not weigh on the wrist so often as Madoc, but oftener than Joan of Arc or Thalaba, or Kehama. Poets should live in cities; the leisure of the country spoils them. That bucolic contemplation of nature, which spends its ennui in watching for hours the eyelet-holes of a rill's eddies, is very well for a goatherd, and may grace an eclogue; but where fates of empires are at stake, the attention should not be invited to settle on any phenomena, not stimulant enough to arrest the attention of a busy man. The engineer, who is sent to reconnoitre, is not to lose his time in zoologizing, entomologizing, botanizing, and picturesqueing, as Pelayo does on his way to Covadonga. I cannot most concede to Homer that he may get his dinner. Your heroes never travel in seven-league boots, but rather à la Humboldt. Wordsworth carries rather than you the narratory manner, and the magnification of trifles, but you Wordsworthize too often. Another fault of the poem is its incessant religiosity. All the personages meet at prayers; all the heroes are monks in armour: all the speeches are pulpit exhortations; all the favourites are reconciled to the church, and die with the comfort of absolution, as if, not the deliverance of Spain, but the salvation of the court, constituted the action of the epic. And in this religiosity there is more of methodism and less of idolatry than marked the Spanish catholicism of that era. Thirdly, there are too many women in the poem, and none of them very attaching, except perhaps Gaudiosa; the domestic affections occupy in consequence a preposterous space. Out of a truly respectable puritanism you dislike to contemplate woman in the point of view in which she chiefly interests man. You rather carve a Vestal than a Venus, and in consequence your women want attraction; you take or mistake purity for beauty. Heroes are never very eminent for the domestic affections. While at home they have a superfluous fondness for their wives during the age of beauty; in absence they console themselves with substitutes; and in later life, if they retain their vigour, they despoize over the old woman; if they become infirm, they seek the friendship of their nurse."

Southey's disclaimer of some articles attributed to him belongs to literary history:—

"You probably will know my hand in the Quarterly; yet it is often ridiculously mistaken there. They give me credit at Cambridge for writing upon Baptismal Regeneration—a subject upon which I should think it no credit to bestow even a thought; and Hunt, of the Examiner, supposes that I reviewed his 'Rimini,' whereas I wrote an indignant letter to Murray to express my utter disapprobation of the review."

The 'Vision of Judgment,' which surprised everybody as much as its reception by the world did the author, afforded as much amuse-

ment to the recluse of Norwich as to every body else. His theory that the poet was ironical, and that Southey would again return to liberalism, is equal to the most extravagant of his hypotheses on biblical history:—

"It is not permitted to receive a presentation-copy of your 'Vision of Judgment' without thanking you, at least, for the polite manner in which you have mentioned me at the end of the preface. I enjoyed the book exceedingly, and have been reading it with peals of laughter. The idea is ingenious and happy, in writing the apotheosis of a king, to convert his red book into the book of life; and though there may be in this a little lurking profaneness, neither you nor I are likely to be shocked at that. Perhaps the irony is too covert; but probably you mean the Tories should be taken in. Apparently it is from Monti's elegy on the death of Ugo Basleville that you borrowed the general plan of the machinery, which accords sufficiently with received ideas for interesting effect. The versification is to my ear usually pleasing; most so when spondee mingles in the lines, which have else too many light syllables. Thus I like the following:—

'While in the west beyond was the last pale tint of the twilight.'
'Neither man was heard, bird, beast, nor the humming of insect.'

'Sent forth its note again, toll toll, through the silence of evening.'
and am least pleased with those which begin with a weak or unaccented syllable. 'The Odyssey,' 'Theocritus,' or Goethe's 'Herman and Dorothea,' would well bear translating into this new metre; and there is always one advantage in novel forms of versification,—that words require to be stationed in new combinations, and thus produce original associations of idea—it is like changing partners at the end of a country dance, or sowing flower-seeds on the paths of triviality. I trust we are approximating again in political opinion, and can agree to sympathize in the regeneration of Spain, of Portugal, of Naples, and in abhorring the tigers of Layback. O that 'Roderick' were translated into Italian and Spanish, and contributing to warm the invaded to resistance, and prophetically foreboding the catastrophe of the aggressors! The Spaniards should offer to the King of Brazil the right bank of the Plata in exchange for Portugal, and incorporate the whole peninsula under one government, with Toledo for the metropolis. The Tagus would then be the chief river, and Cadiz would remove to Lisbon; the languages could easily coalesce under a new system of orthography; and as all the forms of instruction will require new elementary books adapted to the liberal ideas which are disseminating, this is a convenient moment for the innovation."

Have we not in this letter the foreshadowing of a fame which has since made itself manifest over Europe?—

"A Norwich young man is construing with me Schiller's 'Wilhelm Tell,' with the view of translating it for the press. His name is George Henry Borrow, and he has learnt German with extraordinary rapidity; indeed, he has the gift of tongues, and though not yet eighteen, understands twelve languages—English, Welsh, Erse, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German, Danish, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese; he would like to get into the Office for Foreign Affairs, but does not know how."

We have made our extracts from the correspondence between Southey and Taylor so liberally that we may be charged with having reviewed the literary career of the Laureate, rather than that of the proper subject of these volumes. But in doing so we have been far from underrating the value of Taylor's services to literature: none of his admirers are more ready to bear testimony to his vast information, unwearied research, acute perception of analogies, high moral principle, and warm sympathy with general humanity. But pure criticism is of necessity tedious, and the criticism of criticism would be too much for the strongest digestion.

Southey, on the other hand, made himself a public man, and as such exhibited the strangest anomalies that can be found in the annals of literature. The key to these anomalies is at

once an interesting and a useful subject of inquiry, and this he has unconsciously revealed in the letters before us. Of him it might be said, *quodcumque vult, valde vult*—whatever was the object of his wishes he would have total and immediate, or not at all. This intense energy of will limited his powers of observation to a contracted sphere, but gave them microscopic accuracy within that boundary: while he looked upon the abuses of royalty in France and Spain, he discovered such multitudinous evils that he would have annihilated monarchy; but when he surveyed the crimes of the Jacobins, or the follies of the Cortes, he would have remedied both with absolute despotism. To such a temperament the reverse of wrong appears to be the absolute right, and hence arises the manifold contradictions, both in Southey's publications and his private letters. He never forgave the *Anti-jacobin* for ridiculing his 'Sapphics,' nor the *Edinburgh* for slaughtering 'Madoc': he had an equal dislike to Pitt and Fox, and he bestowed the same reverence on Sir Thomas More and the policy which sent More to the scaffold. The characteristic of his mind was one-sidedness, not merely in his judgment, but in his imagination; for instance, the visions of Islám are angelic visions in 'Thalaba' and satanic mockeries in 'Roderic.' When the mind is over-mastered by the will, judgment becomes the slave of impulse, and the last impulse drives all the former from the memory.

Mr. Robberds has executed his task as a compiler with great care, skill, and modesty: he displays in some instances a little of the partiality of a biographer, but his chief object has been to keep himself out of sight, and to let Taylor and his correspondents speak for themselves.

The Allyn Papers. Edited by J. P. Collier, Esq. Printed for the Shakespeare Society.

A supplement to the 'Memoirs of Edward Allyn,' (see *Athen.* No. 696) the munificent founder of Dulwich College. Mr. Collier says in his Introduction:—

"The ensuing documents will illustrate, still farther than the facts detailed in the 'Memoirs of Edward Allyn,' his gradual and steady acquisition of wealth, which enabled him, even before the commencement of the seventeenth century, to make considerable purchases of land and houses. There is a remarkable passage in the comedy of 'The Return from Parnassus,' not printed until 1606, but clearly written before the demise of Elizabeth, which must, we think, refer either to Shakespeare or Allyn, but has yet never been distinctly applied to either: it relates to the manner in which some person, who had been an actor, was able, by means of his profitable profession, to become the owner of estates, and to obtain the title of esquire. Our readers will be aware that the usual style given to actors of old was merely that of 'gentleman'; and it is to the advance of such a person to the rank of an esquire that the anonymous writer of 'The Return from Parnassus' adverts. We hear of no other performers of the time, who attained to comparative wealth and consequence, but Shakespeare and Allyn; and our reasons for thinking that the following quotation relates to Allyn are, that our great dramatist could hardly be considered sufficiently wealthy, anterior to the death of Elizabeth, to excite observation; and that the person referred to is not spoken of as an author, as well as an actor, which in all probability Shakespeare would have been, considering his success and popularity as a dramatist, and the inferior place we may suppose that he held as a player:—

Vile world, that lifts them up to high degree,
And treads us down in grovelling misery!
England affords these glorious vagabonds,
That carried erst their fardles on their backs,
Coursers to ride on through the gazing streets,
Sweeping it in their glaring satin suits,
And pages to attend their masterpieces:
With mouthing words, that better wits have framed,
They purchase lands, and now esquires are made."

The contents of Alleyn's pocket-book, one of the principal documents that show the extent of his property, and the number of his purchases, appeared in this journal, on the 28th of August, 1841, having been communicated to us by Mr. Collier, who did not then contemplate the publication before us. The details are dry; one item, however, is curious:—

"It shows that Edward Alleyn (at what precise date does not appear) was in possession of an inn called 'The Boar's Head,' which had formerly been kept by his elder brother, John Alleyn. No locality is stated; but it would be very singular if it were the very Boar's Head in Eastcheap, which existed in the time of Shakespeare, and which he has made so famous. It was, however, not an uncommon sign in London; and the inn which John Alleyn at one time kept in Bishopsgate, and which he inherited from his father, may have been so called."

Alleyn gave no less than 8,870*l.* for his estate at Dulwich,—more than 40,000*l.* of our present money! This entitled him to be called "a glorious vagabond." After detailing his possessions, Mr. Collier adds—

"These particulars, it will be evident, are of importance with reference to Shakespeare, and to the property he acquired during his professional life. If Alleyn could attain to such wealth, being merely an actor, it renders it more likely that Shakespeare, when he retired to Stratford-upon-Avon, had realized at least a comfortable and easy independence."

There are not many papers of great interest in this collection: we shall select the most curious. The remarks within brackets are the editor's:—

"Sale of a Cloak and Robe."

"[An agreement for the sale by Isaac Burgess to John Alleyn, 'citizen and inholder,' of a cloak and robe, no doubt for the purpose of being worn on the stage. The price, 16*l.*, seems very high, recollecting the great difference in the value of money then and now: it affords another proof of how much was expended at this date upon theatrical apparel.]

"Be yt known unto all men by theise presentes, that I, Isaacke Burges, of Cliffordes Inne, London, gent., for and in consideration of the somme of sixtene poundes of good and lawfull money of Englande, to me before hand payde by John Allene, Cytizen and Inholder of London, have bargainede and solde, and by theise presentes doe fully, clearlie, and absolutely bargainde, sell, and deliver unto the sayd John Allene, in playne and open market of or within the Cytty of London, one cloke of velvete, with a cape imbrothered with gold, pearles, and redd stones, and one robe of cloth of golde: to have and to holde the sayd cloke and robe, with thappurtenances, unto the sayde John Allene, his executors and assignes for ever, to the onely use and behoofe of the sayde John Allene, his executors or assignes for ever, as his and their owne proper goodes and chattels. And I, the said Isaacke Burges, the sayd cloke and robe againste all men shall and will warrant and defende for ever, by theise presentes. In witness whereof, I have hereunto putt my hande and seale the xxiiijth daye of November, in the xxxiiijth yere of the reigne of our soveraigne lady Quene Elizabeth, &c., 1590.

"P. me, ISAACUS BURGESS.

Sealed and delivered in the presence
of me, JOHN DEANE, Scr.
JAMES TONSTALL."

There is another conveyance, equally formal, of a cloak, value 20*l.* 10*s.* to John and Edward Alleyn. Conveyancing must have been a lucrative branch of business, when articles of dress were bought and sold with the formalities now reserved for landed estates.

"[The following is a curious letter: the writer, it appears, belonged to a company of English actors who were going to perform abroad, thus adding to the imperfect apology we already possess upon the point from Heywood's 'Apology for Actors.']

"Mr Allen, I commend my love and humble duty to you, geving you thanks for yo^r great bounty bestowed upon me in my sicknes, when I was in great want: god blesse you for it. Sir, this it is, I am to go over beyond the seas wth Mr Browne and the company, but not by his means, for he is put to half a shaer, and to stay hear, for they ar all against his going: now, good Sir, as you have ever bene my worthie friend, so help me nowe. I have a sute of clothes and

a cloke at pane for three pound, and if it shall pleas you to lend me so much to release them, I shall be bound to pray for you so longe as I leve; for if I go over, and have no clothes, I shall not be esteemd of; and, by gods help, the first mony that I gett I will send it over unto you, for hear I gett nothinge: some tymes I have a shillinge a day, and some tymes nothinge, so that I leve in great poverty hear, and so humbly take my leave, prainge to god, I and my wiffe, for yo^r health and mistris Allene's, which god continue. Y^r poor frend to command,

RICHARD JONES."

The original of the following fine specimen of orthography and phraseology is in the possession of Mr. Halliwell:—

"[Addressed]

"To may Verey Loving frend, Mr. Allin, at the Palles Garden at London, give thes.

"Mr. Allin, may love remembered. I understoode bey a man which came with too Beares from the gerdayne, that you have a deseire to bey one of mey Boles. I have three westerne boles at this tyme, but I have had verely ell lock with them, for one of them hath lost his horne to the queyck, that I think that hee will never bee able to feyght agayne; that is mey old star of the west: hee was a verely esey bol; and my Bol, Bevis, he hath lost one of hes eyes, but I think if you hed him hee would do you more hurt then good, for I protest I think hee would other throo up your dogges in to the loffes, or eles ding out there braynes ageant the grates, so that I think hee is not for your turne. Besydes, I esteeme him verely hey, for my lord of Rutlandes man had mee for him xx marckes. I have a bol which came out of the west, which standes mee in twenty nobles. If you so did leyck him, you shall have him of mey: faith, hee is a marvellous good Boole, and shuch a on as I think you have had but few shuch, for I asure you that I hold him as good a dubble bole as that which you had amee last a single, and one that I have played thirty or forty courses before he hath bene tacken from the stacke, with the best dodges which halfe a dosen freyghts had. If you send a man unto mee he shall see aney of mey boles playe, and you shall have aney of them (def. in MS.) refor, if the will pleasure you. Thus biding you hartely farewell, I end,

"Your louing friend, WILLIAM FAWNTE."

Amongst the papers is a bill in Chancery, filed by Edward Alleyn in 1611, but no associations can give an interest to the inscrutable rigmale of equity pleading.

Many of these documents relate to Robert Daborne, a prolific play-wright of the day, who eventually entered into holy orders:—

"[Some of our old dramatists must have written so much and so rapidly that we can hardly suppose them to have had time to copy their compositions out fair. Nevertheless, such was evidently the case with Daborne, as we find by the following letter which relates to an unnamed play.]

"Mr Hinchlow, y^e accuse me with the breach of promise. Trew it is, I promysd to bring y^e the last seane, which that y^e may see finished. I send y^e the foule sheet, and y^e fayr I was wrighting, as y^e man can testify; which, if great busnies had not prevented, I had this night fynished. Sr, y^e meat me by y^e common measurer of poets: if I could not liv by it and be honest, I would giv it over: for rather then I would be unthankfull to y^e, I would famish, thearfor accuse me not till y^e have cause. if y^e pleas to pform my request, I shall think myself beholding to y^e for it: howsoever, I will not fayle to write this fayr and perfitt the book, which shall not ly one y^e hands.

"y^es to command,

"ROB. DABORNE.

"Lent at this tyme vs., the 13 of November, 1613."

"Mr Hinchlow, I acquainted you with my necessity, which I know you did in part supply, but if y^e doe not help me to tenn shillings by this bearer, by the living god I am utterly disgract. one fryday night I will bring you papers to the valew of three acts. Sr, my ocaction is not ordinary, that thus sodeynly I write to you; whearfor I beseech you do this for me, as ever y^e wisht me well, which, if I requite not, heaven forget me. y^es at command,

"ROB. DABORNE.

"Lent upon this bille xs. to the fencer, upon the Owle."

We shall give one more extract:—"The following prayer (says Mr. Collier) is in a female

handwriting, and perhaps was penned by one of Alleyn's wives, probably the daughter of Dr. Donne: it may be more than doubted whether his first wife, Joan Woodward, could write. The well-known lines upon sack are on the margin of the paper, accompanied by various scribbles of no interest. The whole is on the back of the rough draft of the appointment of John Wickender to be Alleyn's deputy for the collection of rents, &c., in the parish of Cowden, part of the Manor of Lewisham."

"Allmighty god, thy name be blessed for preseruing me this day: grant mee thy grace to pass all my days in thy feere, and in the love of my husband.

"AMEN.

"Sacke will make the merry mind be sade,
Soe will it make the malliciously glad:
If mearth and sadenes dooth in sake remaine,
When I am sade He drinke sun sake againe."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Ambrose Ward; or, the Dissenter Reclaimed: a Tale for the Times.—This is one of the numerous stories for recommending a stricter attention to the rites and ceremonies of religion. The author seems to have much at heart certain liturgical arrangements which he enforces by extracts taken, as he informs us, "from Dr. Pusey's valuable tract on baptismal regeneration," from which the reader may infer the character of the publication.

Eagle Cliff, a Tale.—We cannot say much for this tale, which is improbable, and which inculcates no very obvious moral. It is illustrated with engravings, of which the less said the better the author and publishers will be pleased.

The Life of Edward the Sixth, by Rev. R. W. Dibdin.—A collection of letters and facts which have been published frequently before, but which are here presented in a cheap and popular form.

Selection of Historical Pieces from Hebrew Writers—[Auswahl, &c.]—This selection, which contains extracts from Hebrew authors between the second century and the present time, is accompanied by a German translation, and calculated therefore to be useful to the student of Hebrew literature.

An Account of the Picture of F. Oerbeck, representing Religion glorified by the Fine Arts.—This is a description, by the artist, of a worthily celebrated picture, and will repay the perusal.

Observations of a Young Person during a Residence in Paris.—The observations of an amiable and intelligent young person—but not such as can justify publication. It would be easy to satisfy the parties of this by extract and comment—but it would give needless pain.

The Hindu Priestess and the Affghan King, by Elizabeth Stewart, (the author, we presume, of 'Lord Dacre of Gilsland,') is a romance, written in smooth heroic verse, on a subject derived from that mine of Eastern treasure, Colonel Tod's Rajasthan. The tale, however, is not yet complete.

The Ayrshire Wreath, 1844.—With every disposition to be interested by collections professing a local colour and interest—nay, feeling such indispensable to the literary history of our island, we cannot say much for this 'Ayrshire Wreath.' The best thing in it is a rude old ballad, said to have been taken down by the authoress of 'Ingliston,' and bearing a tolerably deep stamp of antiquity. The subject, we presume, has reference to some burning for witchcraft or heresy:—

An Ancient Ballad.

My father was the first good man
Who tied me to a stake,
My mother was the first good woman,
Who did the fire make.
My brother was the next good man
Who did the fire fetch,
My sister was the next good woman
Who lighted it with a match.
They blew the fire, they kindled the fire,
Till it did reach my knee—
O mother! mother! quench the fire,
The smoke will smother me.
O had I but my little foot page,
My errand he would run,
He would run into gay London,
And bid my Lord come home.
Then there stood by her sister's child,
Her own dear sister's son;
O many an errand I have run for thee,
And but this one I'll run.

He ran till the bridge was broken down,
He bent his knee and swam;
He swam till he came to the good green turf,
He jump'd on his feet and ran.

He ran till he came to his uncle's hall,
His uncle sat at his meat;
Good meet! good meet! good uncle, I pray,
O if you knew what I had to say,
How little would you eat!

O is my castle broken down,
Or is my tower won,
Or has my gay lady brought to me
A daughter or a son?

Your castle is not broken down,
Your tower it is not won,
Your gay lady has not brought to you
A daughter or a son;

But she has sent you a gay gold ring,
With a poesy round the rim;
And she says if you have any love for her
You'll go to her burning.

He called down his merry men all,
By one, by two, by three,
And mounted on his milk-white steed
To go to Marjorie.

They blew the fire—they kindled the fire,
Till it did reach her head;
O quench the fire, my dear mother,
For I am nearly dead.

She turned her head on her right shoulder,
Saw her girdle hang on the tree,
Oh, God! bless them that gave me that,
They'll soon give more to me.

She turned her head on her left shoulder,
Saw her lord come riding home;
O mother, mother, quench the fire
For I am nearly gone.

He jumped off his milk-white steed,
And into the fire he ran;
Thinking to save his gay lady,
But he had stayed too long.

The two illustrations that have any pretension to pictorial effect have done duty before, if we mistake not, in some of Messrs. Smith & Elder's publications.

The Isles of Greece, and other Poems, by Felicia M. Skene.—A far-off echo of Scott and Byron.

The Patriarch, &c., by the Rev. Richard Gascoyne, M.A.—This is a volume, of elegant versification, on the earlier stories of the Old Testament.

Saul, a Sacred Drama, in Five Acts, by Stuart Alexander—is, we are sorry to say, an absurd production, the lyrics absolutely laughable: one of them a travesty of Moore's 'Sound the loud timbrel.' Yet the author professes to embody 'Evangelical Truth, and portray Scriptural Character.'

The Power of Association, a Poem in Three Parts, by the Rev. J. T. Campbell, M.A.—Here we have a follower of the sober and too much neglected manner of Rogers and Campbell—at a long distance.

Flowers and Fruits, or Poetry, Philosophy, and Science, by J. E. Duncan.—With some eccentricities, this little brochure shows just such a degree of talent as may improve by cultivation.

What is Christianity? by Thomas V. Short, Bishop of Sodor and Man.—A plain answer to a question not so well understood as the innumerable volumes on the subject would lead us to imagine. Dr. Short's language is simple and suited to the comprehension of the uneducated.

Sabbath Evening Readings, Second Series, by Rev. D. Kelly.—Earnest, but without claims to originality, or any special merit.

Pietas Domestica, by the Hon. and Rev. S. Best, M.A.—A compilation of prayers, chiefly from the liturgy of the Church of England, together with a series of discourses on the services appointed for Sundays and holidays. Acceptable to families who may have found the want of a similar work.

Dialogues Metaphysical and Practical, by J. Forrest.—The first of this series of dialogues is between Time and Space, and undoubtedly belongs to the metaphysical portion of the series. It is mixed up with a little theology, apparently not of the most orthodox character.

Reading Book for the Use of Female Schools.—The objection of petty larceny holds in the case of this book as well as most others of its class. Separate from this, the selections seem made with tolerable care and judgment.

Questions and Answers illustrative of the Church Catechism.—This is, we believe, a diluted edition of a work said to have been compiled from popish sources, and suppressed by authority. There is much even in this edition that savours strongly of Romish divinity.

A Geography of Pennsylvania, by C. B. Trego.—Public attention in England has recently been directed to the "drab-coloured men of Pennsylvania," and this book may be acceptable to those who wish to know them as described by themselves. Mr. Trego enters minutely into all matters connected with that State and its separate counties.

Willich's Tithe Commutation Tables for 1844.—We learn from these useful tables, that the average prices for last year were only—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 50s. 1d. per imp. quarter for Wheat. | |
| 29 6 | Barley. |
| 18 4 | Oats. |

While the average prices for seven years, to Christmas last amounted to—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 61s. 2d. per imp. quarter for Wheat. | |
| 32 4 | Barley. |
| 22 4 | Oats. |

An Elementary Grammar of the Greek Language, by Dr. Kühner, translated by J. H. Millard.—This is an abridgment made by Dr. Kühner of his well known grammar, and appears well calculated for the use of schools.

The Land Measurer's Ready Reckoner, by W. Speed.—The author hopes that he has "blended usefulness with convenience, and comprehensiveness with portability," and claims the merit of great accuracy. If the claim be well founded the book must be useful—but we cannot undertake to test its merits.

Selecta Poetis Latinis.—An extensive, well chosen and well printed selection from the Latin Poets for the use of schools.

The Stutterer's Friend, &c., by J. Wright, S.C.L.—A warning against the new-fashioned operations for the cure of stuttering. The argument lies in a small compass. The author has traced some of Mr. Yearsley's patients, and finds that they have not been permanently relieved by his operations. This, as the American papers say, is "important if true;" and we have no *a priori* reason for disputing the fact. As for the philosophical reasonings of Mr. Wright, we can only say, "*valet quantum*;" we are not certain that we always understand them.

Cataract and its Treatment, by John Scott, &c.—This is a purely professional tract, and we simply announce its publication.

Pennmanship illustrated. Improved Method of teaching Book-keeping, by B. F. Foster.—Mr. Foster, it appears, gained a prize for an essay on pennmanship, which induces him, we suppose, to publish the present treatise on the subject. The 'Method of Book-keeping' is pronounced by Mr. Foster himself to be "lucid," and we are content to take his word for it.

List of New Books.—The Phreno-Magnet and Mirror of Nature, edited by Spencer T. Hall, 12mo. 6s. cl.—Poemata Lyrica, by Rev. Canon Ryder, 18mo. 4s. cl.—A Practical English Grammar, by M. Flower and Rev. W. B. Flower, 18mo. 2s. bd.—A Brief Sketch of the Life of the late Miss Sarah Martin, of Great Yarmouth, post 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Foster's Elements of Arithmetic, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—Foster's Examples in Arithmetic and Key, bound together, 12mo. 3s. cl.—Modern Egypt and Thebes: being a description of Egypt, &c., by Sir Gardner Wilkinson, 2 vols. 8vo. 2l. 2s. cl.—An Inquiry into the Nature of the Simple Bodies of Chemistry, by D. Low, 8vo. 6s. cl.—The Influence of Climate, &c. on the Human Constitution, by R. Armstrong, M.D., 8vo. 8s. cl.—Diseases of the Lungs, by G. Calvert Holland, Esq., M.D., 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.—Anatomical Manipulation, by A. Tulk and A. Henfrey, with diagrams, 8vo. 9s. cl.—Müller's Physiology, Vol. II., new edit., 8vo. 1l. cl.—Wagner's Elements of Physiology, translated by R. Willis, Part III., 8vo. 10s. s.wd.—The Watchful Providence of God. Six Sermons, by Rev. E. Dalton, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—The Primitive Church in its Episcopacy, by the author of Dr. Hookwell, post 8vo. 5s. cl.—The Morning Exercises, being Sermons preached at Cripplegate, &c., Vol. I., new edit., 8vo. 12s. cl.—Pastoral Instructions, by Bishop Jebb, new edit., 8vo. 6s. cl.—The Prairie-Bird, by Rev. C. A. Murray, 3 vols. post 8vo. 3l. 6d. bds.—The Poetical Works of the late T. Haynes Bayly, 2 vols. post 8vo. 2l. cl.—James of the Hill, a Tale of the Troubles in Scotland, A.D. 1630, by James Cameron, Esq., 3 vols. post 8vo. 3l. 6d. bds.—The Secret Passion, by the author of Shakespeare and his Friends, 3 vols. post 8vo. 3l. 6d. bds.—Publishers' Circular Catalogue, royal 8vo. 2s. s.wd.—Metropolitan Charities, new edit., 8vo. 5s. 6d. cl.—Dodd's Parliamentary Companion, 1844, royal 32mo. 4s. 6d. cl. s.wd.—A New Theory of Gravitation, by J. Denison, Esq., post 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. s.wd.—Domestic Scenes in Greenland and Iceland, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—The Medical Student's Guide and Almanac, 1844, 2s. 6d. s.wd.—Bachmann's, its History and Practice, 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.—The Handbook of Taste, 2nd edit., 8vo. 3s. cl.—Justin Martyr, and other Poems, by Rev. R. C. Trench, 8vo. 6s. bds.—Fifty Days on Board a Slave Vessel, by Rev. P. G. Hill, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl. s.wd.—Taylor's Builders' Price Book, for 1844, post 8vo. 4s. s.wd.—Music Explained to the World, or how to understand Music and enjoy its performance, from the French of F. J. Fetis, 8vo. 5s. cl.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We have, of late, received some angry letters respecting a sort of eleemosynary aid solicited for "The British and Foreign Institute." We refrained from publicly advertizing to the subject, because it was not clear to us that the project had not originated with some injudicious friend of Mr. Buckingham: the facts, however, are no longer in doubt, and therefore we feel bound to comply with the request so urgently pressed on us,—to inquire from the Trustees and Members of this new Club, whether they are informed of, and approve, this extraordinary proceeding. Mr. Buckingham, as our readers know, was, some years since, Member for Sheffield, and in that character he brought the bill into Parliament by which the number of copies of every new work delivered, free of charge, to the Universities, &c., was reduced from eleven to five. In November last "A Statement," as it was called, "of the Benefits derived by Publishers" from this Act, was printed and circulated, reminding the publishers of what are called Mr. Buckingham's services, and that "an opportunity now presents itself for recognizing and rewarding the services adverted to, in the most effective and appropriate manner. Mr. Buckingham," it went on to say, "is about to establish a new Literary Institute, of which the property, as well as the direction, is to be placed in his own hands, subject to the control of Trustees, and an essential part of that undertaking will be a well-selected Library of Reference, but not of Circulation. It would be in the power of the publishers of the kingdom, with very little sacrifice on their parts, to form, by a contribution of books and engravings from their own stocks, in the relative proportion of the respective benefits derived by them from Mr. Buckingham's Act, such a library as would make a munificent recognition of his services—would be more appropriate than any other kind of reward—and, when placed, with the names of their donors, in the Institute of which Mr. Buckingham has been the founder, and which is already honoured with the patronage of the most distinguished personages of the land,—would there constitute a public and lasting memorial of their gratitude and generosity, as gratifying and honourable to the givers as to the receiver, and reflecting the greatest credit on both."—This sort of appeal, for such services, was, it will be admitted, strange and startling enough; and we must further observe that there was appended to the "Statement" a printed list of 250 publishers' names and addresses, with two "stand and deliver" columns headed "*Number of Volumes*," "*or Money*." Still there was no proof that the scheme originated either with the Trustees, the Members, or the Director of the Institute; and the "Statement" itself set forth distinctly that Mr. Buckingham had "never sought or desired, either then, or at any subsequent period, any other reward for his labours, than the satisfaction of having effected a great public good, without inflicting a private injury on any one." As, however, the publishers did not very generally respond to this appeal, Mr. Buckingham has now taken on himself the advocacy of his own claims, and addressed them in the following circular:—

London, Jan. 1, 1844.—4, Hanover Square.

Sir, Messrs. Fisher & Co. have communicated to me the result of their correspondence with the principal publishers of the kingdom, on the subject of my parliamentary labours for their relief from the tax of five copies of every work issued from the press, which, by my Copyright Bill of 1835, has been saved to the trade to the extent of about 5,000l. annually. It is not for me, of course, to decide whether this service was of any value to your house or firm individually, or to say whether, if it were, any recognition, or even admission of it, as a fact or otherwise, should be either asked or granted. This is rather the province of others, than myself: but as it is quite possible, in the hurry of business, that a printed statement, such as was issued by Messrs. Fisher & Co. on the subject, may not have been read by the principals of the firms to which it was addressed, I may be permitted, perhaps, to ask whether such a document has ever reached your hands, and whether your decision upon it was, that it was not entitled to any acknowledgment or consideration. As there are some who have thought more favourably of it, and have communicated their sentiments accordingly, it is desirable that mere silence should not be misinterpreted into dissent or disapprobation, but that, as far as may be practicable, the opinions and feelings of the publishers generally should be known on the subject: and as I feel my honour and reputation in some degree involved in the issue, I shall esteem it a favour if you will do me the kindness to say, in a line by the post, whether the proposition of Messrs. Fisher & Co., as to a recognition of the

services adverted to, in the mode suggested by them, appears to you in any degree to be worthy of your support.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
J. S. BUCKINGHAM.

The facts are now before the reader, and we leave them, for the present, to the consideration of the public, and of the Trustees and Members of "The British and Foreign Institute."

The inauguration of the Statue of Molière, at Paris, was duly performed on the 15th instant, according to the programme which we had announced. France, as our readers have seen, by a multitude of similar notices in our columns, is busily engaged in repairing the wrongs of the past—elevating to the pedestals of sculpture her own heroes, so long expelled thence by the heroes of Greece and Rome, and making art the illustrator of her national greatness, by perpetuating the memory of those who made her great. All over her soil are springing up, in towns and villages, on the sites which the foot of genius had consecrated, the monuments which honour it. Such monuments are at once local and national, combining in one general homage to the genius of the country, and distributing through its several parts the feeling for art and the emulation of virtue. This spirit, new to France, is, as we have said, spreading there very rapidly. One by one, the men who have been the interpreters of her mind and the exponents of her true grandeur, are taking their places in the Temple; and thus, 170 years after his death (a period as nothing out of Molière's immortality, but long for the shame of ingratitude to weigh upon a nation), Paris has inaugurated a public monument to her great son, Molière! The whirligig of time is bringing about great revenges. The noble spirit to whose enclosing sanctuary priests refused their offices, as to its forsaken one the Church denied a tomb—whose house, while yet the dead lay there, a mob of fanatics surrounded, diverted from their purpose of insult to the poor remains only by the vile argument of scattered silver—whose funeral *corde* stole through the city streets by night, like robbers who had pilfered from a grave, rather than men who sought its shelter for an honoured and beloved head,—has been at length "crowned in the Capitol" of France, amid the representatives of her intellectual greatness.

The Earl of Aberdeen has communicated to the President of the Royal Society (the Marquis of Northampton), an announcement received from the Austrian Minister concerning the Scientific Meeting at Milan, of which we gave notice (No. 838) in November, and which is now appointed to be held next autumn. Our statement, that the sum of 10,000 livres will be devoted to experiments, on that occasion, in physical science, is also confirmed by the same document.

The papers announce the death, by voluntary starvation, of a Dr. Swiney, and state that he has "bequeathed 5,000*l.* to the trustees of the British Museum, for the establishment of a lectureship on geology, and 5,000*l.* to the Royal Society of Arts, out of which sum the first freeholder, whether in England, Ireland, or Scotland, that should reclaim and bring into cultivation the largest amount of waste lands, was to receive 100 guineas, to be presented in a goblet of equal value; this gift to be renewed every five years." It matters not to whom the unhappy man may have bequeathed his property, for voluntary starvation is, we should suppose, conclusive evidence that he was not legally competent to make a Will.

It is with great regret that we announce the nearly total destruction, by fire, on Sunday morning last, of the edifice, with its chapel and valuable library, known as King William's College, in the Isle of Man. The house of the vice-principal is the only portion of the building which has been spared. The library, collected originally by Bishop Wilson, and considerably increased by donations from the present Bishop of Sodor and Man, contained, it is stated, a curious collection of Bibles, from the time of Coverdale, in upwards of fifty different languages, and many unique manuscripts relating to Manx ecclesiastical affairs.

The following letter will speak for itself:—

Charlotte Cottage, Chelsea, Jan. 25.

In your last number (January 20th) I observe the following statement:—"Sir Hudson Lowe is said to have left behind him some interesting notes and documents relative

to his government of St. Helena, and custodianship of its illustrious prisoner, which have been, it is further said, intrusted by him to a friend, expressly for publication, with a view to his own justification against the censure which has so long weighed upon his name."—To the second part of this statement I hesitate not to give the most emphatic contradiction. The first is exceedingly under the truth, as originals and copies of all documents and correspondence, relating to St. Helena, have been carefully preserved and methodically arranged, and are, at this moment, in the possession of his family. You will oblige me by inserting this correction.—I am, &c., Hudson Lowe.

In November last (No. 839), we noticed, with regret, the jealous interference of the wood-engravers, and their opposition to the class for the instruction in their art of females, established by the School of Design; and we recommended, in justice to all parties, and more especially the public, that a qualification should be required of every candidate, namely, that she was already a good draughtswoman previous to admission. It seems that, in consequence of the wood-engravers' remonstrance, the operations of the class were, for a time, suspended; but we are happy to hear that the school is again opened. We cannot, however, let the present opportunity pass without reiterating the recommendation we before gave, still thinking that, without such precautionary measure, there is reason to fear that the class will only promote the spread of mediocrity in the art, whereas, with it, it may be made the means of producing the most beneficial results.

The capital of Berlin is about to be enriched with a new cathedral. The designs have been executed by M. Stieler, after the suggestions of the King himself. It will be in the Italian style, and embellished with sculpture and painting. The vaults will be appropriated as a burial-place of the reigning family of Prussia. The estimate of the expense amounts to 38,000,000*fr.*

A periodical, devoted to the science of historiography, has just been started at Berlin, under the management of the most celebrated historians and antiquarians residing in that capital, Jacob and William Grimm, Boeckh, Pertz, and Ranke.

On Tuesday last, a lame man was brought before Mr. Maltby, at Marlborough Street, for having seriously injured the 'Jupiter and Leda,' by Mola, in the National Gallery. It was stated, in evidence, that the prisoner stood before the picture for some time, then deliberately lifted his crutch, and thrust it through it. The man, however, declared that it was an accident—that it occurred while pointing out to a friend the beauties of the picture, and he deeply regretted it. We cannot doubt the truth of this statement; a fanatic or a madman would have avowed his intention, and assigned some reason, however absurd; and mere wantonness generally contrives to effect its mischievous folly where there is a reasonable chance of escape, which in this case was impossible. The absence of all motive is indeed a subject for congratulation, because nothing can fairly be inferred from this isolated case against the growing disposition freely to throw open our collections of art to all classes of the people.

On Friday, in last week, a private rehearsal of sacred music, the composition of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, took place in the Queen's Private Chapel, Windsor, before Her Majesty and the Prince-composer, assisted by the whole of the gentlemen of the choir and the choristers of St. George's Chapel. The Prince's compositions formed also a portion of the musical service at the Chapel of St. George, on Sunday morning.

The 'Organo Harmonica,' invented by Mr. Evans, of Cheltenham, was exhibited at the Hanover Square Rooms on Monday, when its various powers, as a compendious substitute for the organ, were displayed in fugues, preludes, &c., which were performed with tolerable effect. The instrument seemed to us an improvement on the seraphine in use behind the scenes of theatres—capable of more rapid execution, and possessing, perhaps, a larger range of stop; but, as in all former inventions of the kind, there is something in the tone which first satiates—afterwards becomes unpleasant; nor can we reconcile ourselves to the idea of this Harmonica becoming, by choice, the accompaniment to any performance, although its size and price may recommend it as a matter of economy.

By letters from Florence, it appears that Madame Catalani's villa at Sinigaglia is a thing in *nubibus*,

though she herself has not yet gone in that direction. While the French and German journals (not to mention our own) have been lamenting over her supposed death, and putting the date of 1828 on the grave of her husband, M. de Valabrique, the two have, it seems, been enjoying the "glimpses of the moon" at her less visionary villa in the neighbourhood of the Tuscan capital; and, in a circle of friends gathered round them, on New-Year's day, one of the amusements was derived from the reading of the paragraphs in the French papers, which, to the extent of their authority, made ghosts of them both.

The concert season at the Parisian *Conservatoire* has begun. The novelty at the first meeting was Mendelssohn's last symphony (in a minor), which was but moderately successful. One cause of this moderation may have been the indecision of a Parisian public as regards a new style. No audience is so blindly enthusiastic when once a favourite is adopted—none so cold and jealous with regard to anything beyond the pale of its accustomed sympathies and conventionalisms. But another reason may have lain in a peculiarity of that far-famed orchestra which, real or fancied, occurs to us, though we have not seen it remarked elsewhere: we mean, a certain stiffness in the rendering of triple rhythms; and in these the principal movement of Mendelssohn's symphony is written. Were we point to the primal cause of this, as the same which makes Germans the only waltz-players, and gives the *galoppe*-measure as pre-eminently to Parisians, we might possibly be laughed at for wire-drawing; the distinction, however, is not worthless as matter for speculation.

Will be shortly closed.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

The Two Pictures, now exhibiting, represent the CATHEDRAL of NOTRE DAME at Paris, with effects of Sunset and Moonlight, painted by M. RENOUX, and the BASILICA of ST. PAUL, near Rome, before and after its destruction by Fire, painted by M. BIGNON. Open from Ten till Four.—N.B. The Gloria, from Haydn's Services, No. 1, will be performed during the midnight effect of the Cathedral of Notre Dame.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—An increase of POWERFUL and BRILLIANT EFFECTS in ELECTRICITY are exhibited by ARMSTRONG'S HYDRO-ELECTRIC MACHINE. A new field is opened for investigating, on a small scale, a variety of objects in ART, SCIENCE, and NATURAL HISTORY, by means of LONGOTTON'S OPAQUE MICROSCOPE, showing also an extraordinary OPTICAL ILLUSION. NEW DIS- SOLVING VIEWS. A List of the POPULAR LECTURES which will be delivered during the Week is suspended in the Hall of Manufactures. Holloway's ORIGINAL CRAYON DRAWINGS from RAPHAEL'S CARTOONS, numerous MODELS in MOTION, DIVER and DIVING BELL. Conductor of the Band—T. Wallis, Mus. Doc. Admission, One Shilling.—Schools, Half-price.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Jan. 17.—The President, Mr. Warburton, in the Chair. The following papers were read.

1. 'On Fossil Crustaceans from Atherfield, in the Isle of Wight,' by Prof. Bell. The fossils described in this paper, were preserved in the lower green sand, and belong to the family of Astacidae, probably to the genus *Astacus*. They are distinct from any known recent or fossil species.

2. 'On the occurrence of Phosphorite in Estramadura,' by Prof. Daubeny and Capt. Widdington. The phosphorite rock, the extent of which had been greatly exaggerated by Spanish writers, is situated at a short distance from Logrosan, a village of Estramadura. It lies in an extensive clay slate formation, and is interstratified with the slate, appearing on the surface for about two miles, presenting a breadth of usually about twenty feet, and a thickness as far as could be ascertained of ten. Its presence does not appear to communicate fertility to the soil. It is composed of phosphate of lime, associated with fluoride of calcium, oxide of iron and silica. The authors examined it with a view to its employment as a manure; but great difficulties exist with respect to its transportation.

3. 'On the Cretaceous Strata of New Jersey, and other parts of the United States,' by Mr. Lyell. The author proves, from a careful examination of these fossils, that the ferruginous and greensand formation of New Jersey corresponds to the uppermost part of the cretaceous system in Europe. Four or five, out of sixty, fossil shells, are identical with European species, giving an agreement of 7 per cent., whilst a great number of the remainder are nearly allied to and represent species from the middle and upper part of the European cretaceous beds. Teeth of sharks, some of them allied to known cretaceous forms and

vertebrae of *Mososaurus* and *Plesiosaurus* accompany them. The upper fossiliferous division of the New Jersey cretaceous deposit, observed by Mr. Lyell at Timber Creek, near Philadelphia, judging from the evidence afforded by certain of its fossils, of which, however, the great part, especially of the corals, are new, must be regarded as equivalent to the uppermost (Maestricht) part of the cretaceous system. Among the Echinodermata and Foraminifera are several characteristic cretaceous forms.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—Jan. 22.—R. I. Murchison, Esq., President, in the chair. Resumed and concluded Lieut. Christopher's account of his explorations on the north-east coast of Africa, from Kilwa to Hafun, and of the discovery and character of an important river, to which he had given the name of Capt. Haines, the political agent at Aden. Haines River appears to take its rise somewhere at the foot of the southern slope of the great Abyssinian plateau, and after a long and winding course through the plains, approaches within about ten miles of the sea, in latitude 1° 40' N., and longitude 44° 35' E. at a place called Galwen, whence it runs parallel with the coast to Barawa, a distance of forty-five miles, and then diverging a little inland, eventually empties itself into a lake, having no known outlet. Between the river and the sea runs a range of sand hills, about 200 feet high, through which it appears much of the water reaches the sea by infiltration; it is every where met with along the coast in this part near the surface, and at a very little distance above high water-mark. The country, on the banks of the river, where visited, was found to consist of a rich soil, well cultivated by a happy and hospitable race. Grain ripens all the year, and yields from 80 to 150 fold. 1300 lb. of Jawari were obtained for one dollar. Lieut. Christopher is of opinion that, with proper cultivation, every luxury of the East might be here produced with facility. The population is represented as considerable; and along the coast the inhabitants were in some places found living in fine stone dwellings, the probable remains of Portuguese establishments.

The business of the evening being concluded, Mr. H. Ritchie obligingly read to the meeting a portion of a letter received by him from Mr. Wm. Scott, and dated Macao, the 11th of September, 1843. The extract is as follows:—"I must conclude, however, now with a notice about the sickness at Hong Kong, which, from the social position of the persons who have fallen victims, is likely to be much talked of and written about. Captain Morgan, Messrs. Mercer, Ellworthy, Dyer, Scott, and Morrison, all fell sick at the same end of the island, near and in a beautiful valley, which I and many others always said would prove unhealthy, and the result has shown that we were right. The valley of Wangnei-ching is surrounded by very lofty mountains, on all sides forming an amphitheatre of vast surface, from which there is only a small opening to the bay of about 200 yards across. I maintained that the annual plants and herbage, dying on these immense slopes, give out in their decomposition a sufficient quantity of malaria to cause fever for a great height in the valley. The centre of the island, where I lived, has been healthy; I passed the last six weeks there, and none of us were attacked. At the West Point Barracks numerous deaths occurred, but this can be accounted for by the injudicious construction of the houses, which were not adapted for the climate." This seems to confirm an opinion expressed at the last meeting of the Society, when a paper, on Hong Kong, was read, that the unhealthiness of the island so much complained of, may, after all, prove to be confined to particular spots.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—At the first meeting of the season the Rev. D. Laking was elected a Fellow of the Society, and the following papers were read:—

'Magnetic Term Observations at Prague, for May, June, July and August, 1843.' By Prof. Kreil.
'Variations de la Déclinaison et Intensité Magnétique observées à Milan le 26 et 27 Mai, le 21 et 22 Juin, le 19 et 20 Juillet, le 25 et 26 Août, le 20 et 21 Septembre, le 18 et 19 Octobre, 1843.' By Sig. F. Carlini.

'An Account of a remarkably large and luminous Spot in the Sea.' By Captain F. E. Wilmot. With remarks on the water taken thence: from Lieut. M. Dixon, R.A. The letter is as follows:—

"Woolwich, October 6th, 1843.
"Captain F. Eardley Wilmot, on his voyage home from the Cape of Good Hope in the spring of this year, observed one night a remarkable, though not very uncommon, appearance of the sea. This was a large and very luminous spot, which was clearly defined by a sharp edge. He thus describes the appearance, and also the steps which he took to obtain some of the water for the purpose of bringing it home to England and submitting it to a chemical test. 'The sea was covered with so brilliant a surface of silver light that we could see to read, and the shadows of ropes, &c. were strongly marked. We sailed through it for about four hours. In one place it had an edge; and we sailed out of it for nearly half an hour, when we again entered it as abruptly, and finally left it, when the edge of the illuminated part was strongly defined. The water was taken up in a clean bucket and put into a carefully cleaned bottle; about 10° north latitude.' As Capt. Wilmot's time in England was limited, he left the bottle of sea water with me, and I took the first opportunity of showing it to Dr. Faraday, who took it to London with him, and wrote me a note, of which the following is a copy:—

'Royal Institution, September 25th, 1843.

'I have examined the water, and it is peculiar in some points. It contained much sulphuretted hydrogen, and also a portion of solid deposit, which was about one half sulphur and the other half organic matter. There has no doubt been considerable change in the contents of the water, and I cannot now recognise organic forms; but the presence of the animal matter, the sulphur, and the sulphuretted hydrogen, all agree with the idea that the water, when taken up, was rich in animals or animalcules.

'M. FARADAY.'

The Society awarded its gold medals for 1843 to Prof. Forbes, of Edinburgh, for his 'Researches on the Law of Extinction of the Solar Rays;' to Prof. Wheatstone, for his 'Account of several new Instruments and Processes for determining the Constants of a Voltaic Circuit;' and the Copley Medal to M. Jean B. Dumas, for his 'Researches in Organic Chemistry.' These were presented at the anniversary meeting by the president.

Mr. Dollond has presented a bust of his grandfather, John Dollond; and Mr. Watt a bust, by Chantrey, of his illustrious father, James Watt, to the Society. Mr. Watt has also presented a bust of his father to the Academy of Sciences at Paris.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.—Jan. 20.—Prof. H. H. Wilson in the chair.—The proceedings of the day were declared special, for the purpose of making provision for the more ready admission into the Society of gentlemen visiting England on temporary leave of absence from their services in India. The result of the discussion was, that the existing regulations were declared to provide sufficiently for the object in view, as it would be competent, under a liberal interpretation of Art. XLIX., for any members of the services of the Crown or the East India Company, whose usual abode would be in the Presidencies and settlements to which they are permanently attached, to become non-resident Members, for which privilege the annual payment would be two guineas. A general hope was expressed that this resolution would become extensively known, and that it would lead many persons to avail themselves of the benefits which it holds out. It was further resolved, that, in modification of Art. XXII. of the Regulations, all candidates for admission into the Society, proposed at one meeting, should, in future, be ballotted for at the following meeting.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Jan. 16.—R. W. Barchard, Esq., in the chair. J. Stewart, Esq., M.P., was elected a Fellow. From J. Cook, Esq., were two fine specimens of *Epacris nivalis* and *impressa*. Both plants were about 6 feet high and 3 feet in diameter, and were uniformly covered with blossoms. Mr. Ayres, the gardener, stated that the treatment which they received during the past season differed much from what is usually considered proper for this tribe. Instead of being grown in an airy greenhouse, they were subjected to a close moist heat of from 60° to 90°, with no more air than was necessary to keep the heat from exceeding what is above stated. After sunset, especially on dewy evenings, air was freely

admitted; but the plants were syringed and the house was closed before the sun came upon it the following morning. The rate of growth was said to be so rapid that to keep the plants from flagging they had to be shaded during bright sun-light. Many who saw them during summer said that they would not set any flower buds; but the result proves that a fine show of flowers is not incompatible with luxuriant growth, provided the precaution is taken to get the young wood properly matured before winter; a Knightian medal was awarded.—From Mr. Beck were good specimens of Ashmead's Kernel Apple; this is a valuable hardy variety; it is much in the way of a Nonpareil, and from its being a great bearer, as well as on account of its general excellence, it is worthy of a place in every cottage-garden. From G. Crawshaw, Esq., were specimens of Black Hamburgh Grapes, that were cut on the 15th of January; they were good bunches, with well swelled berries; and although they had been grown in a vinery without the aid of fire-heat, they were perfectly ripe and well flavoured; he also exhibited a bunch of the same sort that was cut on the 4th of December last, and had kept in good condition hung up in a room; the berries were not at all shrivelled nor the stalks decayed. Mr. Crawshaw grows his grapes in a vinery where no fire-heat is employed, except in very dull damp weather: small fires are occasionally lighted, not to increase the temperature, but merely to dry up the damp; the vines are allowed to have great ventilation, and from this circumstance the grapes are well ripened, which is the secret of their keeping. From the garden of the Society were a collection of apples, among them the Golden Harvey, one of the best sorts in cultivation, in richness and delicacy of flavour it is even superior to the golden pippin; it is also an excellent cider apple. The tree is hardy, and it is a good bearer.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.—Jan. 16.—E. Forster, Esq., in the chair. Dr. T. Harrison, Dr. W. Francis, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Clement, and J. Camplin, Esq., were elected Fellows. A specimen of the flying fish was presented by Mr. Green. An extract from a letter to Dr. Bostock from his son was read, giving a detailed account of a flight of locusts which he had witnessed in India, between Cawnpore and Agra. The number of locusts was so great that the air became quite darkened. They appeared to be moving at about the rate of four miles an hour, and although the travelling party were moving in an opposite direction they were between two and three hours in passing through them.—Prof. E. Forbes read a paper on the Echinidae of the Egean Sea, of which he had found twelve species when accompanying H.M. ship *Beacon*. The most remarkable were a new *Amphidetus*, allied to the *A. cordatus*, and the *Echinus monilis*, identical with the form of that name found fossil in the tertiary beds of Europe. The species were dredged up from depths varying from one to a hundred fathoms. In the description of *Amphidetus* he gave an account of the eyes of that genus which he had discovered surrounding the ovarian foramina, and which are protected by cycylids formed of regular circles of spines. He gave an account of the habits of *Cidaris hixtrix* which he had taken in 70 fathoms of water, and which has the power of climbing up corals by means of its spines alone, a fact not previously observed. The *Echinus hixtrix* is used as food by the Greeks, and is identical with the Irish sea-urchin, which perforates rocks.

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—Jan. 17.—J. S. Bowerbank, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair.

The Secretary, Mr. John Quekett, made some observations upon the structure of some human bones which had been discovered in a bog, about ten feet below the surface. When first taken up, they were as black as ebony, but, on drying, the colour had changed to a dark brown. The specific gravity was exactly twice that of water. The most remarkable circumstance connected with these bones, was the fact of the earthy matter not only having penetrated into the Haversian canals, but had made its way from them, through the canaliculi, into the osseous corpuscles. The specimens exhibited had been boiled in Canada balsam, to render them very transparent, and to show the great contrast between the corpuscles which had been filled with earthy matter and those which were

still empty. The same fact had been noticed by Mr. Ince in the bones of a mummy. The author stated that he had not been able to succeed in filling the corpuscles with injection. Mr. Dalrymple alluded to a portion of a skull of a Peruvian, in the Haversian canals of which he had seen, not only a single vessel running in the canal, but a number of capillaries on the walls of the canals. Dr. Goodfellow mentioned that he had seen the osseous corpuscles artificially filled by Mr. Tomes.

Mr. Quekett then made another communication, 'On the Arrangement of the Blood-vessels in the Lower Part of the Lung of the Chameleon,' which were so precisely like those in the air-bladder of the eel, that it left no doubt in his mind of the respiratory function of that organ.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Jan. 9.—The meeting of the Society was held in their new premises, 11, Hanover Square.—The Rev. J. Barlow in the chair. Several letters from corresponding members of the society were read.—At the request of the chairman, John Gould, Esq. called the attention of the meeting to a hitherto undescribed bird from Western Australia, the habits of which he stated as follows:—The bird is an inhabitant of the close underwood of the country, neither making its appearance in the open plains nor woods, thus rendering it extremely difficult to procure a specimen—the only means of securing it, being to lie concealed in the thicket until the bird hops into sight, within two or three yards of the observer. Its note is the loudest of all the inhabitants of the grove. The great peculiarity which distinguished it from all others of the Sylviade, and marked it at once as a new genus and species, was the total absence of the *vibrissa*, or bristles at the base of the mandibles. From this fact and the loudness of its voice, Mr. Gould proposed the name of *Atricha clamosa*.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Jan. 24.—T. L. Donaldson, V.P., in the chair.—A communication was read from Dr. Brömet, relative to the New Bridge lately erected over the River Moine, at Clisson, near Nantes, in Brittany.—The river runs in a deep ravine, is at all times shallow, and consequently unnavigable, and is seldom frozen. In the design of the structure, it was necessary for the architect to consider it less as a bridge than as a viaduct for the more easy passage of the ravine. The length of the bridge between the abutments is about 350 English feet, the width of the carriage-road and two footways together, 27 feet, making the entire width, including the thickness of the parapet walls, 30 feet. The arches are fifteen in number, of 19 feet 4 inches in span, and of a semicircular form (eight being land arches), the whole supported by fourteen lofty piers, and a long abutment at either end, following the slope of the banks or sides of the ravine; the springing line of the arches is about 33 feet 3 inches above the bed of the river. The total height from the bed of the river to the top of the parapets, is about 54 feet 3 inches. The foundations of the piers of the seven principal arches are carried about 6 feet 9 inches below the bed. The piers and abutments are founded on the dark-coloured granitic rock, of which the banks are composed, which being too coarse for architectural purposes, the superstructure has been built of a white granite, found in the vicinity. The stones are all of a large size, well squared and dressed, and closely jointed with fine white mortar. The piers, at their lower extremities, present faces of 5 feet, with returns or sides of 30 feet in extent. The chief peculiarity of the construction consists in each of these piers, at the height of about 13 feet from the bed of the river, being pierced with an arched aperture, of a pointed form, 14 feet in width; these arches having the same springing line as the semicircular arches, and intersecting the cylindrical intradoses of the semicircular arches, and thereby forming a series of groined vaultings, which, when viewed longitudinally, from under either of the abutment arches, produces an effect somewhat similar to that of the nave of a Gothic church.

Mr. R. W. Billings read a paper, descriptive of some peculiarities in the arrangement of the plan and in the construction of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Kettering, in Northamptonshire, and exhibited numerous diagrams in illustration thereof, and of the forms of the doors and windows, and the

principles on which the tracery and ornaments had been designed. He likewise noticed the unusual height of the spire as compared with the body of the church, by which the importance of the latter (really of large dimensions) is much diminished; a circumstance not uncommon in the churches of this district.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Jan. 19.—Prof. Faraday gave 'Speculations touching Electric Conduction and the Nature of Matter.'—Mr. Faraday commenced his discourse by declaring his object to be, not to originate a new theory, but to induce reflecting minds to reconsider the generally admitted views of the nature of matter. He stated that he was led to dissent from the popular notions on this subject, by some phenomena in electricity. He entered on his subject by noticing the prevalent idea of the constitution of matter, i.e. that it consists of innumerable infinitely minute particles, held together in the solid state by the attraction of cohesion, neutral to each other in the liquid, mutually repulsive in gases or vapours. As this change of form in matter is usually referred to the effect of heat, it would seem to follow that this influence of heat is effected by detaching the particles from each other, so that the whole mass is made to occupy a larger space (as when water is converted into steam). Quitting this mechanical theory of the nature of matter, Mr. Faraday, rapidly touched on its modification in the atomic theory of modern chemistry. This theory, as is well known, consists in the assumption that atoms of elementary substances, when brought together by chemical affinity, form one atom of a compound body (as when an atom of hydrogen unites with an atom of oxygen, to form an atom of water). All these accepted notions of matter, Mr. Faraday declared to be mere assumption, involving, in some instances, absolute contradictions. The common physical law of bodies expanding by heat and contracting by cold is contradicted by the fact that water expands, instead of contracting, when below the temperature of 40° Fahr. On the other hand, the chemist is obliged to have recourse to *half atoms* (i.e. divisions of what he defines as indivisible), as in the salts of phosphorus and the oxides of iron and some other metals. But in the phenomena of electricity, the greatest difficulties to the general views of the nature of matter are presented. It is well known that bodies may be classed as conductors or non-conductors of electricity. Of two equally solid substances, copper conducts, shell-lac insulates; and yet if, according to the universally recognized opinion of matter, the particles of each are surrounded by space or ether,—why does this theoretical atmosphere exhibit properties so opposite? Why does it conduct in copper and not conduct in shell-lac? Again, in general, metals conduct worse when heated, and better when cooled, yet iodide of mercury will not conduct at all till it is fused. But the most striking anomaly in the popular opinion mentioned by Mr. Faraday is, the opposite electrical properties of the metal potassium in its metallic state, and when it is oxidized. In the former condition, it is lighter than water, and conducts electricity; in the latter, its specific gravity is doubled, twice the number of particles of potassium entering into the same space, and yet then it will not conduct at all. Mr. Faraday concluded by avowing that the impression produced on his mind by these difficulties in the received theory of matter was, that matter consists of centres of fires, around which the forces are grouped; that particles do touch, and that the forces round those centres are melted; that wherever this power extends, there matter is; that wherever the atmospheres of force coalesce, there the matter becomes continuous; that chemists need not group atoms together, as in the case of berberine, or other organic substances, to make their composition intelligible, but that particles can penetrate each other.

At the conclusion of this discourse, which was listened to with profound attention, the Rev. J. Barlow, Honorary Secretary, announced for the following Friday, Prof. Brande, 'On Fermentation.' He took that opportunity of promising from Profs. Owen, E. Forbes, and Grove, and Mr. S. Solly, communications on those branches of research to which these distinguished men had directed their philosophical inquiries.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- SAT. Botanic Society, 4, P.M.
WED. Geological Society, half-past 8.
— Society of Arts, 8.—On the principal cause of the Rocking Motion of Locomotive Engines and Carriages on Railways, by Mr. G. Heaton.
THUR. Royal Society, half-past 8.
— Royal Academy, 8.—Architecture.
— Society of Antiquaries, 8.
— Zoological Society, 3.
FRI. Botanical Society, 8.
— Royal Institution, half-past 8.—Professor Owen 'On the wingless birds of New Zealand.'

FINE ARTS.

HENRY PERRONET BRIGGS, R.A.

THE daily papers announce the death of Mr. Briggs, the Royal Academician, at his house, in Bruton Street, on the 18th instant, at the too early age of fifty-one.

Mr. Briggs became in 1814, in his one-and-twentieth year, an exhibitor at the Royal Academy, sending a male and a female portrait—we have never heard of what promise; but, from the circumstance that he was not, in the succeeding year, an exhibitor, it is evident that he was not over-troubled with commissions of any kind. He soon after turned his attention to history-painting, exhibiting in 1818 a picture of Lord Wake, of Cottingham, setting fire to his castle, to prevent a visit from King Henry VIII., who was enamoured of his wife. This was followed, in 1819, by a subject from Boccaccio:—'Calandrino, a Florentine painter, thinking he had found the Elixir (a black stone), and thereby become invisible, is pelted home by his companions, Bruno and Buffalmacco.' As his skill increased, he sought in Shakspeare for fresh inspiration for his pencil; endeavouring, in 1820, to embody a scene from Henry IV., with Falstaff, and a scene from Twelfth Night, with Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, and Clown. As if not confident in his own power of conception, he made Maddocks, the actor, the original of his Falstaff, a practice then too common even with well-established painters.

From 1816 to 1843, he never neglected sending something to the annual exhibition of the Royal Academy. Scenes from Shakspeare and Ariosto are mixed up with subjects from Robertson's America, the History of the Gunpowder Plot, and Smollett's 'Ferdinand Count Fathom.' One of the most successful of his Shakspeare pictures is that favourite subject with our painters—Othello relating his adventures to the all-attentive Desdemona. Mr. Briggs has not done full justice to his subject, but still it is a good picture. In 1826, he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy, acquiring that honour before both Eastlake and Landseer, who, though they started with him, and were outstripped for a time, soon overtook him in gaining the still higher honour of becoming an R.A. elect. To confirm the justice of the Academy in his election, he exhibited, in 1826, a large picture of the First Interview between the Spaniards and the Peruvians, a clever, well-composed picture, but too dark, and too much in the manner of his then favourite Opie: it has been engraved. In 1831, he exhibited a large picture, painted for the Mechanics' Institute at Hull, in which he endeavoured to embody the Progress of Civilization by representing the Ancient Britons instructed by the Romans in the Mechanical Arts. This stamped him as an historical painter of high promise; and, in 1832, he was elected into the Academy, on the death of Northcote.

Unwilling to risk his newly-acquired reputation, and feeling, perhaps, his powers insufficient to make good the high expectations that were raised about him, or more likely still, from a wish to make money, he now devoted his whole time to portraiture, swelled out the catalogues of the Royal Academy, and filled its rooms with *kit-kats* and *three-quarters* of squire and noble, bishop and layman, heads of colleges and chairmen of quarter-sessions. Lawrence was in the grave, and he had to run a race with Shee, Pickersgill, and Phillips. He began the race well, and has left us some very fine portraits. There are few English painted heads better than his three-quarter portrait of Chancellor Eldon, painted the year before his Lordship died.

One of his last great flights was an attempt to embody an affecting incident in the life of old Lord Eldon. He tried too much, and failed in telling his full story. The circumstance he took up is as follows:—In June, 1834, at the installation of the

Duke of Wellington as Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Encombe, the grandson of Lord Eldon, the High Steward of the University, had the honour of D.C.L. conferred upon him. As the newly-made Doctor ascended the steps of the Chancellor's chair, the Duke clasped his hand in a most friendly manner. The Earl of Eldon looked affectionately on; and his grandson, instead of proceeding at once to his place among the Doctors, took his grandfather's hand, and bowed down to it, as a mark of reverence and affection. The cheering became enthusiastic, and the old Earl, covering his face with his hands, burst into a flood of tears.

We subjoin a list of a few of Mr. Briggs's portraits; the reader, when he sees the name, may perhaps remember the picture:—1. The first Lord Teignmouth; 2. Sir Samuel Meyrick; 3. Baron Alderson; 4. T. Fowell Buxton; 5. Mrs. Opie; 6. Mrs. Siddons and Miss Kemble; 7. Rev. Sydney Smith; 8. Rev. H. H. Milman; 9. Lord Wharcliffe; 10. Mr. Planché; 11. Mr. Jameson; 12. Charles Kemble; 13. Lord Stanley; 14. Duke of Wellington; 15. Mr. Walker, the engineer.

The Cambridge Statues.—In your last week's journal, allusion was made to the statues which form part of the design of the New Hall of Assize, at Cambridge, as an instance of "artistic jobbing." I believe, from an imperfect knowledge of the facts of the case, which I feel it to be incumbent upon me, as the architect under whose direction, jointly with that of my partner, Mr. T. H. Wyatt, the building was erected, to state to you correctly. The four statues in question were competed for by two sculptors—Mr. Smith and Mr. Davis—each of whom sent in their respective designs, which were submitted to the Committee: the result was, that those of Mr. Smith were selected and ordered to be executed. Subsequently, a doubt arising as to whether it would be possible for one artist to execute the four within the limited time in which it was necessary that they should be finished, and partly from the peculiar circumstances under which Mr. Davis's claim was urged, a proposition was made to Mr. Smith to relinquish the execution of two of the statues, which he very liberally consented to; and the sanction of the Committee having been obtained, two were accordingly intrusted to Mr. Davis to sculpture. The remuneration offered was 90*l.* for each statue, the blocks of stone being supplied to the artists free of expense, which was by no means an inadequate sum. Flaxman and Rossi received, I am informed, but 100*l.* each for their celebrated statues of Comedy and Tragedy, which decorate the wings of Covent Garden Theatre. The fault that no communication took place between the two artists, rested entirely with Mr. Davis, who declined every opportunity offered him of meeting his brother artist; care, however, had been taken in the selection of the designs, that they should not be in ill accordance with each other, if properly executed, and the public are now enabled to judge how far the endeavour has succeeded, as well as of the merits or demerits of the productions of either artist. I am induced to trouble you with this communication, with a view to correct the impression which the article in your journal is calculated to create, that great injustice has been done to one of the parties, and the above statement of facts will, I believe, demonstrate which, if either, may have any just grounds of complaint.

I remain, &c.,
D. BRANDON.
75, Great Russell Street,
25th Jan. 1844.

We do not see that Mr. Brandon's statement materially differs from our own,—that, of the four colossal statues intended to decorate the building, "two were intrusted to one person, and two to another. The height and required proportions being given, the artists employed set to work, having had no communication with each other—no mutual understanding as to style and treatment: being, in fact, personally unknown to each other, and holding an entirely distinct position as regards the art." The truth of our report, as to the result, is not denied: but more of this, perhaps, hereafter, when we have a little leisure, for Mr. Brandon's letter has reached us only just in time for publication.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

CONCERTS.—Not a whisper has crept beyond the boundaries of that close borough, the Philharmonic Council, to give us a notion of what our leading Concert Society intends to do this year towards revivification and progress. Yet the matter becomes, reason by reason, one of greater interest, unless we become content to see the musical aspirations of the last ten years "sink in the ground." Of course, with benefit concerts no order can be taken. Till we can remodel the whole race of artists, and persuade them that ultimate profit and fame would attend their efforts to raise the public, instead of playing and singing down to it, we must look for nothing more sterling at these entertainments than strings of the newest songs sung by the most fashionable singers, or the wonders of the most wonderful (because the newest)

of foreign instrumental lions. But there is a class of meetings at which we have a right to expect purer aims,—a wider range of purpose; and we have been grieved by the sight of the concert bill of an entertainment given at the *Western Literary and Scientific Institution* on Wednesday last. This was made up of no less than seven-and-twenty vocal pieces: the most substantial of which were, Bishop's 'Blow, gentle gales,' a tertzett from Mr. Macfarren's 'Devil's Opera,' and a trio from 'Lucrezia Borgia,' the rest consisting of ballads, duetts, &c. strung together, without the humblest interlude of instrumental performance. Now, since to all persons of taste such an evening must prove a weary infliction,—and this may be averred without fear of challenge,—how is it that the directors of a literary and scientific institution can consent to minister to the appetites of the tasteless? Either they do not treat Music as an art, with a spirit and a significance of its own, or they are willing to lose sight of these, for the sake of financial expediency. Of little use will be popular instruction, of less use would be the most select and careful academical study for the Professor (if ours were such), so long as low-thoughted views are allowed to manage and to decide; and the amusement of the untaught, at best a vacant and imitative pleasure, is consulted in place of the progress of the teachable. To hit the amateurs of the informed class, such as frequent the Philharmonic Concerts, may be difficult, though not impossible; but to refrain from vitiating the taste of the beginner is very easy. An act of a classical opera, a well selected cantata, a classical piece of instrumental music, may be less digestible than 'Love not,' or 'Gramachree,' or 'The dear Irish Boy,' but that the want for these things is more urgent than formerly, might be inferred, not only from our Exeter Hall performances, or to go lower, from our Promenade Concerts, but (to dive into depths) from the operatic representations which have been found to attract at our public-houses and tea-gardens. A scientific and literary institution should not wait for its example from the Eagle Tavern!

SHAKESPEARE is again in the ascendant at our theatres; 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' with the combined attractions of Madame Vestris and Mrs. Nisbet, is played nightly at the Haymarket, like any *vaudeville* fire-new from the French mint; 'Richard the Third,'—or at least as much of it as Cibber's mangling left to the stage,—has been got up at Drury Lane, as a melo-dramatic spectacle, with "unequalled splendour," for the exhibition of that "celebrated tragedian," Mr. Charles Kean, and promises to be as popular as the 'Battle of Waterloo,' at Astley's, in which Mr. Gomersal figures as *Buonaparte*; while the first part of 'Henry the Fourth' is selected for the opening of the Lyceum on Monday, the management of which professes to take the 'Legitimate Drama' under its protection. These are symptoms that Shakespeare's name is still influential with managers, and that his plays possess charms for audiences, when pretty women, a fine show, or a new set of performers are superadded. Unwilling to offer critical objections to performances which please the great majority of those who seek amusement at the theatres, yet care little or nothing for the means of excitement, we refrain from discussing the merits of representations of Shakespeare adapted to this numerous class of play-goers, and in which so small an infusion of the spirit of the author animates the performers. Indeed, the low state of the art of acting at this time, and the temptations offered to players to indulge in tricks of stage drollery and melo-dramatic clap-trap, by the indiscriminating appetite of audiences for stimulating appeals to their eyes and ears, renders the task of noticing the performances of Shakespeare ungracious; conscientious hesitation, on the one hand, may be mistaken for carping depreciation, and, on the other, reluctance to condemn may be interpreted into an abandonment of our duty. These scruples satisfied, let us say that the spectacle of 'Richard the Third' is not only magnificent, but in good taste, the costumes of the time being preserved with praiseworthy accuracy, and the array of soldiers imposingly marshalled. Since we cannot coincide with the majority of the crowded audience at Drury Lane in applauding Mr. C. Kean's personation of *Gloster*, or in liking his style of acting, we will be content to protest

against his sacrificing the meaning of the author, the spirit of the character, and the natural expression of passion to a vicious mannerism, of which ranting, attitudinizing, and false emphasis are the leading characteristics. Mr. Harvey Tuckett—we presume the same gentleman who was mixed up with an affair in which Lord Cardigan figured—is to make his *début* as *Falstaff* at the Lyceum—a bold attempt for a first appearance; and Mr. and Mrs. Keeley are to appear in an afterpiece taken from Washington Irving's tale of 'Dolph Heyliger.'

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—*French Plays.*—Mr. Mitchell's third season began this week, and merrily. He has changed some of the members of his company: introduced a M. Barqui, who displays moderate cleverness in personating the 'Famille Improvisée'—has engaged Mlle. Nelia Henri, Mlle. Beauchêne, and pretty Mlle. Bachelet, to strengthen his corps of young ladies. In place of cheerful, contented Mme. Croset, he has substituted a Mme. Lambert, the worst duenna we ever saw at a French theatre. He has, more wisely, renewed the engagements of MM. Cartigny and Lienard,—and, for his first star, exhibits M. Achard. Were it wise to speculate on the fancies of that capricious body, we should say, this capital actor was particularly calculated to please the English public. Had he been gifted with less vocal power, he might possibly have equalled Bouffé as a dramatic artist—had he less humour and versatility, he might divide honours with any of the singing gentlemen at the *Opéra Comique*. Both words and music are delivered by him with ease and neatness: we have rarely, indeed, heard a French voice so perfectly agreeable in its quality. The audience did little save applaud his *chansonnets* in 'L'Aumônier du Régiment.' To ourselves, however, that trifling piece has a higher value. It turns on the incident of the priest of a regiment assuming the disguise of a soldier, to trick a hot-headed warm-hearted *moustache* into common sense and forgiveness. Nothing can be at once quieter or more highly-finished than this performance. Where other actors would study how to put on the comrade, our new guest is obviously most anxious how to put off the ecclesiastic; and the voice for ever falling into church tones,—the hands imperceptibly approaching each other for the paternal attitude of benediction,—the gait, which tells of the *soutane*, in spite of the smart pantaloons,—make up a whole, the rare excellence of which must strike all who are familiar with the manner of the foreign ecclesiastic. This praise, too, implies versatility. As we have the Priest and not M. Achard's personalities in 'L'Aumônier,' so in 'Bruno le Filleur,' we have the Cotton-spinner in all his glory, with all his vagaries and high spirits, and a total unfitness for the usages of *mode and monde*, which will surprise such good souls as have been used to regard the Gaul as born a dancing-master! His cory, a brother operative, comes into possession of a splendid fortune, marries a young gentlewoman, and is put into genteel training. How *Couturier* (Achard) assists him to bear a part in the gay circles gathered round him by his wife, sees through his splendid misery, and encourages him in rebellion, is a thing to study as well as to laugh at. Good-hearted conceit and uncouth awkwardness in demeanor were, possibly, never more happily blended; and at this moment we are not quite sure whether the capital comedian really can behave himself according to the code of drawing-room propriety.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Academy of Sciences.—Jan. 15.—M. Arago made a further communication respecting the comet discovered by M. Faye, from which it appears that it is a periodical, having a revolution of six years and 200 days.—Papers were read from M. Milne Edwards relative to the organization of various non-vertebrated animals of the coasts of the Channel; by M. Bonjean, on the effects of the ergot in rye; and by M. Robinet, on the formation of silk by the silk-worm.

Condors.—Three of these remarkable birds have been brought to this country from the Rio Negro, in Patagonia, which are believed to be the largest ever seen here alive, measuring from 11 to 12 feet across the wings. The two males are thought to be upwards of 20 years of age. They have been purchased for the Surrey Zoological Gardens.

A few days ago, as some workmen were employed in demolishing the ruins of a tower of an old manor house, near the Chapelle-Gauguin, on the confines of the Sarthe, they came on a skeleton which was recognised as that of a female. A chaplet of glass beads was found round the neck, and on two of the fingers were gold rings, one bearing the letters C.D.B., and the other, in which was a turquoise, the figure of a turtle, engraved on the gold, with the word *Impossible* close to it. The skeleton was in a place only just large enough to hold it. The teeth are in excellent preservation, and evidently belonged to a young woman. About 200 years ago this residence belonged to Jacques des Loges, Gentleman of the Chamber to Louis XIII. By a legal process this estate was declared forfeited, but he was subsequently allowed to sell it, and in the act of sale he signed for his wife, whom he declared to be absent, but engaged to produce her ratification within a period of six weeks. This ratification, however, is not to be found amongst the titles of the property, which are otherwise complete. The wife of Jacques des Loges was Catherine de Broc: C.D.B.

Periodical Literature in Sweden.—We learn from *The Foreign and Colonial Review*, that no fewer than 116 periodicals have been published during the last year in Sweden. The majority are stated to be newspapers. Six are devoted to theology, four to agriculture, and others to divers specific branches of science. *Christmas Eve*, an idyll by Runenberg, is mentioned in the Swedish papers as one of the best productions in Belles Lettres of the current year.

A short time since, as a farmer, residing at Dammartin (Jura), was digging a trench in a vineyard near the roadside, he came to a large flag-stone, which, having been raised, laid open an orifice of about a metre square, leading to a cavity below. The farmer's son descended by means of a ladder, and to his astonishment found a vault, thirty metres square, supported by twelve large columns in excellent preservation. On the north were twelve cases in stone, standing against the wall, in shape something like the sentry-boxes of the present day. When struck, they gave back a hollow sound, and one of them, having been broken, disclosed a complete suit of armour, much corroded by rust, but all the pieces of which were still connected with thick thongs of leather. The armour, which was of an exceedingly ancient form, contained all the bones of a skeleton, except the head, which was absent, leading one to suppose that the warrior had been decapitated. At the feet lay a purse, made of metal rings, containing twenty-three bronze and silver medals of small size. They were all of the Netherlands, except one representing Charlemagne. A reliquary was also found, which apparently had been attached by a chain to the neck of the figure. It was of octagonal form, and covered with chasing still perfectly clear and well-defined. From the taste and delicacy of the design, it would appear to belong to the eleventh or twelfth century. The letters L. P. were discernible in various parts. A massive gold ring was also discovered, without any other ornament than the same letters L. P. Round the other three sides of the vault were similar stone cases, also placed against the wall. Some stones, with vestiges of Gothic inscriptions, appear to cover other tombs. In an angle a door is walled-up, which is apparently the ancient entrance. The Mayor had all the articles thus discovered placed in safe keeping, and gave notice of the circumstance to the Prefect of the department.—*French Papers.*

New Explosive Power.—*The Globe* gives an account of a discovery which relates to a combination of chemical substances, able to bid defiance to any resistance however powerful; and capable of being nicely regulated, so that the time when the explosion shall take place may be calculated. The form of this missile is globular. It may be propelled from a musket, a cannon, or a bomb, and thrown with the same precision as common balls or shells, yet is otherwise so perfectly harmless that it may be carried about without the slightest danger; it may even be cast down, with any force, upon iron or stone, and no other effect be produced than if the ball itself were a solid mass of stone or iron. Of course, we can offer no opinion on the subject until the efficiency of the discovery shall have been tested, which, it is said, the Board of Ordnance is about to do.

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